
Pastor's Journal...

Fr. William P. Felix



12 August 2018 + Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

As I write this journal entry we are preparing to have a "going away" dinner at my rectory for our seminarians who have been with us this summer in the Chippewa Falls - Eau Claire area. We say goodbye to our own Timothy Reither. I want to thank Timothy for his presence in our parish, especially with our youth. He is a talented, sincere young man and a great example of the fine, dedicated young men who are coming forward and following the call of Jesus Christ to renew his Church for the future. Because of Timothy's presence here I have also gotten to know many more of our seminarians in formation. We, of course, cannot forget our own Daniel Williams who could not be around this summer because of his clinical pastoral training in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. These men are fully aware of the challenges that will face them in the future, and despite the crisis of leadership that we are now facing on many fronts, outside and inside the Church, they continue on the path of true discipleship in Jesus Christ. Yes, we are facing critical times in leadership. As I have told you in the past, we are reaping what we have sown in the last half of the twentieth century. These young men give me hope and encouragement. We wish them well as they head back to their respective seminaries.

This Sunday marks the 40th wedding anniversary of our own Deacon Ned Willkom and his wife Lou Ann. Congratulations to the both of you from your parish family of All Saints. One of the wonderful gifts of our present age is the presence of permanent deacons serving the Church, most of which are married. When people say the Catholic Church doesn't allow married clergy they are wrong. The permanent diaconate is not only a gift to the Church as a whole, but also a wonderful sign of the bridge between the secular world and the Church, especially in witnessing to the power and sanctity of Holy Matrimony in the Sacrament of Marriage. As I have mentioned above, we live in an age of the crisis of leadership. This is not only found in high positions of government, education, media, business, and the Church, but also in marriage and family life itself. One of the most powerful signs a married deacon gives is his commitment as a husband and father. I don't think we could ask for a better witness than Deacon Ned and Lou Ann Willkom. May God bless you with many more years of married life and faithful service to Christ and his Church.

Don't forget the special Holyday this week as we celebrate the Assumption of our Blessed Mother into Heaven. There will be special Masses on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Check the schedule in the bulletin for times and places. Don't forget to sign up for our annual golf scramble coming up soon on Saturday, August 25th. Remember to check the posters and bulletin for the open events with Bishop Callahan as he is with us that same weekend. Have a great week as we move toward the beginning of school and the harvest season.