Notre Dame Elementary School

Nurturing Dreams, Excellence and Success

December, 2016

Dear Parents,

The liturgy for the second and third Sundays of Advent highlight the teaching and preaching of John the Baptist. John is called the Baptizer and preacher of the theme "Reform your lives." He stands out as one who points beyond himself and his career to the person of Jesus.

When looking at John the Baptist one would hardly think of him as a person of joy. His joy was of hearing Christ's voice. Even before his birth, he leapt for joy in his mother's womb at the nearness of the unborn Christ. His joy was not one of laughter; but of peace: peace found in the joy of knowing God's plan and his part in that plan. His joy was a sense of fulfillment now and in the future.

John's work of waiting and preparing for Christ now becomes our work; and his joy now becomes our joy. To be even closer to Christ than John is Christ's gift to us. He asks only that we accept Him, and live in joy as we ready ourselves for His coming in the present and in the future. In the Eucharist, we celebrate and deepen our communion with Jesus and with each other. The Eucharist is the fullness of the Real Presence of Jesus. There, we also learn to become His presence reconciling, uniting and transforming ourselves and one another for we are all called by God in love and to love. In his book, "Believing in Jesus," Leonard Foley writes, "It is not just the bread and wine that is changed in the Eucharist, WE are changed, transformed and enlivened."

So as we continue this week, let us recall that we are not just to be people who sit and wait. We are instead moved by the Spirit to open our hearts so that the Christ-event takes place every day as we become Eucharist and give Eucharist to each other. Then we will become people of hope, love, peace and joy to a world so in need of knowing that "Life is worth living."

A few years ago, I came across this reflection of an unknown author on Being Eucharist.

> He was old and tired – I smiled, said, "Hi"- and gave him Eucharist.
> She lived alone and she talked endless words to you – I listened and gave her Eucharist.
> When will we learn that we can't talk about Eucharist – we live it!
> We see Eucharist in another's eyes, squeeze it in an embrace, give it in a handshake... for being Eucharist is as simple as being on time and as profound as one's expression of sympathy.

My wish is that the experience of God's love in Eucharist will deepen our own capacity to love not just during this season; but all the new year and beyond.

Sister Carol Marek

13000 Auburn Road • Chardon, OH 44024
Elementary Office: 440.279.1127 • Admissions 440.279.1129 • Fax: 440.286.1235
www.notredameelementary.org
Preschool Office 440.286.7101 Ext. 5920