

## A Note from your new R.C.I.A. Coordinator

### (Right of Christian Initiation of Adults)

I was trying to think of a way to talk to the parishes about this since it was first announced in June. It occurred to me that Fr. Beaver's vacation was the perfect opportunity since I get to write the letter for this weekend.

For a while Judy Pompei had been asking me to assume this position since she has been doing it for some time and deserves to relax more and enjoy retirement with Bob. For those who worry about losing Judy from R.C.I.A. fear not! The position of coordinator is setting the mechanisms to facilitate this ministry. Judy still wants to be a part of it but without the paper work; finding sponsors or presenters or facilitating trips necessitated by the process or attending staff meetings. I am often impressed by people who can do this behind the scenes work and I have not thought that this was one of my gifts; I think Irene would agree.

Judy seems to think that I am a natural for the job but I accepted the position with some trepidation. My strong points; I love people, I love to share faith, I dream of realizing Our Lord's dream that all will be one in Him as He is in the Father and the Father is in Him. I think this is the core goal of R.C.I.A. Since I was once a Lutheran and have come into the Catholic Church Ecumenism is one of the hallmarks of my thinking.

Ecumenism does not seek to convert people; it is total outreach and seeks only to celebrate the things we have in common. This is reflected in R.C.I.A. in that we do not proselytize; anyone who enters this process is made aware that at any time they may step out of it with no hard feelings and we leave the door open should they want to return. Our main objective is the command of Our Lord to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."

I have not been thrown into the water to sink or swim. Judy will work closely with me for the next year mostly as a consultant. The best way to learn to swim is a toe in the water and then foot etc. She has also worked to build a team of which I have been a part since before I was ordained (Some 28 years ago). Many have been on this team for some time and I have met and know that they are the best. The team consists of: Sponsors who partner with the catechumen or candidate; Prayer Leaders who lead prayer and discussions of the readings they will or have heard during Mass; Presenters who teach and discuss important topics of faith; and the coordinator who facilitates these functions.

Finally pray for us. Let the Lord know you are with us. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us. Pray that the coordinator will overcome his shortcomings and do a credible job. He has great desire to do a good job and a wonderful example in Judy and an incredible team of ministers to work with.

May the Lord bless and keep you always.

Yours in the Love of Christ Jesus,

Deacon Al

**NEXT WEEKEND, JULY 28 & 29**, we will have our monthly collection for the Catholic Charities HOPE Pantry. The pantry continually needs food, household and personal care items to serve their families. Food items needed include: canned corn (regular & creamed), peas, carrots, instant and boxed potatoes and boxed macaroni & cheese. Household and personal care items needed include: deodorant, shampoo, toothbrushes, dish soap, and laundry soap. Thank you for reaching out to those in need.

**SACRED HEART OF JESUS PARISH FESTIVAL** is July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:30 am to 10:00 pm.

They are located at 5742 SR 61 South, Shelby, Ohio. They will be serving your choice of a big or small BBQ chicken or baked ham meal with all the trimmings and is being served in our air conditioned dining hall. Carry out will be available.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Catholic Charities in Mansfield is urgently in need of volunteers to help in our HOPE Food pantry. If you are available for a couple of hours a week, or just a couple hours per month, your help is greatly appreciated! Without our volunteers, we would not be able to serve the many needs of the community. We appreciate any amount of time you are able to give and we thank you for your support. Please phone 419-524-07336 or email [psellards@toledodiocese.org](mailto:psellards@toledodiocese.org) to inquire about volunteer opportunities.

**OUR LADY QUEEN OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY CATHEDRAL,  
OCTOBER 28, 2018, 3:00 pm.**

If you are celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary in 2018—25, 40, 50, 60 or 60+ years—plan to join Bishop Daniel Thomas for the Order of Blessing Married Couples within Holy Mass. Registered couples receive a commemorative certificate and are invited to a reception following Mass. To register contact your parish office or go to [www.toledoanniversarymass.org](http://www.toledoanniversarymass.org)

**INDIANS BASEBALL GAME:** Catholic Day at Progressive Field is **Sunday, Sept, 23, 2018**. Mass begins at the stadium at **10:15 am**. The presiding priest is **Fr. Bob Stac**. Indians vs Boston Red Sox game starts at 1:10 pm. Come and join the fun as a group of Catholics take over Progressive Field. To purchase tickets: <https://www.mlb.com/indians/tickets/specials.catholic-family-day>. Use **special code Catholic**. Order deadline is September 2nd.

**HISPANIC SUNDAY WILL BE SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2018, at the SORROWFUL MOTHER SHRINE, 4106 St. Rt. 269, Bellevue, OH 44811, 419-483-3435. See the flyer on the bulletin board for a listing of the venue.**