

“Go baptize all nations in the name of the father, & of the Son, & of the Holy Spirit.”

In the name of the Fr. and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I just returned from the Oglebay Convention Center in W.V., where the vast majority of the priests of our diocese met with the bishop & conferred with one another. As you might imagine, the most important conversations were about **“On Mission Alive”** stuff.

We keep hearing about a ‘major change’ that is coming. The ‘CHANGE’ that must happen is because of the main message we just heard in the bishop’s video before Mass. He talked about Joseph, on Christmas, cradling Jesus, the Savior & the Church itself. He pointed out how, upon his ascension to heaven, Jesus entrusted His precious Church to the care & protection of the disciples.

Please realize: you & I are his modern-day disciples. As such, we are not to be mere, ‘*Sunday-go-to-meeting-Catholics.*’ We are to be Alive, vibrant disciples. Like Joseph, we are to cradle the Church...and more!

Cradle the Church means to protect the Church. Furthermore, with Jesus’ command to “baptize all nations,” that means we are to PROJECT the Church... into our world; where else?

Look around our parish church today. Think of how this same church looks on Christmas & Easter. We must face it—70 or 80% of our people are “MIA’s,” i.e., missing in action. And there’s no reason to think things will get better by themselves. If nothing is done, it will only get worse. Between far from full churches & the dwindling priests, we must get our heads out of the sand and do something to form vibrant, healthy, properly staffed churches.

The bishop admits that we are in serious trouble and has initiated a movement to find the way to form the Church for tomorrow, i.e., for our children, grandchildren, and for their children.

Next Wednesday, our 6 parish leaders, chosen by the pastor to help him, will meet with other local parish leaders, chosen by their pastors to help them, will meet at Holy Spirit Church in W. Mifflin to study certain draft-suggestions the bishop & his many consultants have developed. The leaders & pastors will discuss the suggestions, take the ideas home to further discuss them with the pastor and agree, disagree, 7/or come up with alternate suggestions.

On November (10 a Thur.)<—**SIJ** (14 a Mon.)<—**SFA**), ALL parishioners are invited to come to church (7-9 pm) to meet, listen to & question diocesan on the proposals. They are designed for the Church of 2025 (only 9 yrs. away), when it is projected that we will only have 112 priests, about ½ of what we have today.

Remember, it is up to us to cradle, i.e., protect and project the Church. We are, without a doubt, entering a time of our own Pentecost for the Church of Pittsburgh. With faith and courage, supplied by the Holy Spirit, we, the people of (**SIJ/SFA**) will achieve our Lord’s command: Go baptize all nations...especially in the Church of Pittsburgh and its 6 counties.

Together, we can do this.

We must go in search of the lost, the MIA’s, for every Catholic matters!