

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

RETROUVAILLE WEEKEND: Thank you for your prayerful support of the recent Retrouvaille Weekend that I served on as part of the team. There were ten couples who participated in the weekend. Over the course of the weekend, we covered several related topics relevant to their present situations, offering them tools to address their relationship concerns. We could see over the course of the weekend that there were definite signs of growth and healings that were taking place. We offered them encouraging words acknowledging that healings often take place at different times so they should offer their spouse time and patience. Hurts that developed over long periods of time take time to heal. We will be praying for these couples at Mass over the next several weeks.

MISSIONARY COOPERATIVE APPEAL: Last weekend we posted a video on our parish website and published a letter in our bulletin from Fr. Bosco Darsi, the Director of Talitha Cum Unnati from the Diocese of Vijayawada, India. The work of Talitha Cum Unnati is to save girls from human trafficking. As he wrote in his letter to us:

We wish to request you to support our Talithacumi initiative. Our initiative promotes the education of marginalized girls. Many girls from our region are taken to the Middle East to work as domestic workers. About 5,500 women belonging to Dalit (formerly untouchables) are taken to countries like Qatar, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, and Afghanistan. They have no education or skill. They are exploited emotionally, physically and do not enjoy any human rights. They get to go home only once in five years. Recently one woman wanted to visit her family and she was not allowed to visit and care for her sick children. Upon persistent asking, they brutally cut her hand. Such is the way Indian women are treated in the Middle East.

The collection for this incredibly important ministry is taking place at all the Masses this weekend. Special envelopes are available for this purpose. If you are not able to make your donation for this special appeal this weekend, you can drop it off at the parish center during regular parish office hours or bring it with you next week, placing it in the collection.

As usual, checks should be made payable to St. James Church. We will make sure your donation is sent to Talitha Cum Unnati. Thank you for your generosity. Human trafficking is a particularly horrible reality, but we can help to save girls from this terrible blight.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Next weekend we will publish a financial report, which runs from September 1, 2020, through August 31, 2021, the normal fiscal year followed by parishes in our diocese. Besides covering financial data, we will also include other information about the numbers of those celebrating the various sacraments, those we are able to assist due to your generosity and the variety of ministries and groups that make up our parish. Hopefully, you will find this report helpful and a reflection of the spiritual health of our parish as well. I am grateful to Eileen McMahan, our parish bookkeeper, and Julie Rodetis, our parish executive assistant, for compiling this document.

Fr. John