

# Good News

Dear Friends,

This week I begin a series of articles on the topics of saints, which will lead us to the celebration of our parish feast, All Saints Day. Since our parish patron is All Saints, I believe we should become more familiar not only with the lives of the saints, but how they intercede for us and how they worship with us at Mass.

Of relevance to this topic is an event that just happened this weekend. Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman will be canonized on October 13 in St. Peter's Square, Rome. Cardinal Newman will become Britain's first new saint since the canonization of St. John Ogilvie in 1976. In addition to Cardinal Newman, Indian Sister Marian Theresia, founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family; Italian Sister Giuseppina Vannini; Brazilian Sister Dulce Lopes Pontes, and Marguerite Bays, a Swiss consecrated virgin of the Third Order of St. Francis were canonized at the same Mass.

Cardinal Newman is an important source of intellectual thought for the Church and Christianity as a whole. He was born in 1801 and is a well-regarded theologian, poet, Catholic priest and cardinal. Originally an Anglican priest, he converted to Catholicism in 1845 and his writings are considered among some of the most important Church-writings in recent centuries. Ordained a Catholic priest in 1847, he was made a cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in 1879. Newman's conversion to the Catholic faith was controversial in England, and resulted in him losing many friends, including his own sister who never spoke to him again. He founded the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in England, and was particularly dedicated to education, founding two schools for boys. He died in Birmingham in 1890 at the age of 89.

I remember vividly when Cardinal Newman was beatified. It was in September 2010 in Birmingham, England during Pope Benedict XVI's apostolic trip to the British Isles. The Holy Father said of Newman during this homily: "his insights into the relationship between faith and reason, into the vital place of revealed religion in civilized society, and into the need for a broadly-based and wide-ranging approach to education were not only of profound importance for Victorian England, but continue today to inspire and enlighten many all over the world."

Cardinal Newman saw that faith and reason go hand-in-hand and he remains a patron of Catholic intellectual thought. He did not propose that everyone become a trained theological scholar, but he did advocate that everyone become a student of faith through thought, conversation, discussion and prayer. I hope he will serve as a patron and model as we vision through the next chapter of our parish life and Catholicism in general.

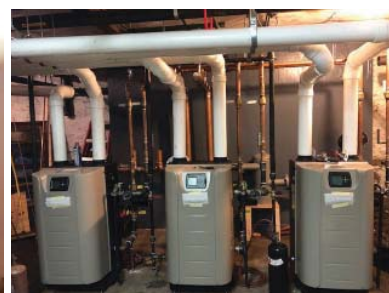
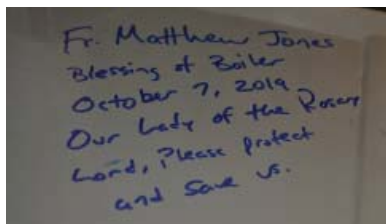
The annual Miraculous Medal Novena begins this Monday, October 14 at 6:00pm and will continue every Monday evening at this time until December 9 (the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, moved to the 9th because the 8th falls on a Sunday this year). Brian Mizzoni will offer reflections on the titles of the Blessed Mother that are not often explored. Using the Litany of the Loretto, the following titles that will be explored throughout the novena are given in chronological order: Mystical Rose, Tower of David, Tower of Ivory, House of Gold, Ark of the Covenant, Gate of Heaven, Singular Vessel of Devotion, Mirror of Justice, Seat of Wisdom.

This novena should help us grow in deeper devotion and appreciation of the Blessed Mother, the saints and the Catholic faith. When Fr. Brennan started the novena, his intention was to acquire the funds to demolish the old school building and to construct a new one. Like me, Fr. Brennan inherited a parish with years of deferred maintenance and a corroding campus in need of repair, remodeling or rebuilding. I invite you to consider participating in this year's novena, especially if you have not attended before. This year's novena intention will be for the successful planning and completion of facilities and building projects and the continued development of the parish strategic plan.

Speaking of projects, see the photos below. As announced a few months ago, the boiler was removed last spring to make way for the new boilers that were installed over the summer. Now that colder weather begins its descent upon us and as the glitches are worked out of the new system, it is time to bless the new one. When it was removed, the base was rusted and corroded. It is amazing that it lasted as long as it did. The first two photos are of the blessing that I bestowed last Monday, October 7, 2019, the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. The last one is of the former boiler, which shows the inscription of the blessing that Fr. Brennan bestowed upon it on June 25, 1956.



Finally, the next Civic Holiday Mass is Monday, October 14 (Columbus Day) at 9:00 am at the Mausoleum. As of this writing, the forecast calls for warmer weather and sunny skies. This will be the last one we hold in this space until the spring.



In Christ,  
Fr. Jones