



In mentioning Fr. John's 1st anniversary as the Pastor of St. John the Evangelist last week, I neglected to mention another very important anniversary that took place last month. On October 22nd, Fr. Dan Smith celebrated the tenth anniversary of his ordination. We are truly blessed to have Fr. Dan as part of our team. He is a fantastic homilist and an incredibly knowledgeable priest. Please congratulate Fr. Dan on this important milestone in his priesthood.

Many of our returning seasonal parishioners have contacted me regarding our music program. "Where is Paul Todd?" is the recurring question. Below is an excerpt from my column written at the end of June.

It is with great sadness I must announce that Paul Todd will be leaving St. John the Evangelist to assume the position of full-time Music Director at St. Agnes beginning July 1st. St. Agnes has become a thriving parish of nearly 3,000 families. Fr. Bob Kantor, the administrator at St. Agnes, communicated the need for a full-time Music Director for the present and future needs of the parish. After much reflection, Paul Todd believes that he has accomplished what he needed to do at St. John's and has decided to go to St. Agnes to build a great program there. Paul has brought us nine years of beautiful music and he will now take his gifts to St. Agnes. I am sure that I speak for everyone in saying that we will miss Paul dearly and wish him the very best in this new endeavor. A search committee is currently being setup to find a replacement Music Director for St. John the Evangelist. Please be assured that only the best candidate will be chosen to fill this important position. The choirs are still under the capable direction of Todd Peterson and will continue to thrive through his ministry here.

We have hired a new Pastoral Musician. Tom Orem will be joining us on December 1st as our new organist. Prior to his official start date, Tom will play Masses on the weekends of November 14, 15 and 21, 22 so that our parishioners may begin to welcome him into our parish family. Tom is an incredibly talented musician and will be a magnificent addition to our music staff. Please welcome him with open arms! I will provide a bio for Tom in an upcoming Scott's Corner.

Please remember that when you are away for the summer or on vacation, you may always access the bulletin and Scott's Corner via our website at www.saintjohntheevangelist.com. By using our website, you will always be "in the loop" as to what is going on at St. John the Evangelist.

Veterans Day is a day to remember, honor and thank all who served in the United States Military. In 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower signed a bill into law proclaiming November 11th as Veterans Day and called upon all Americans to rededicate themselves to the cause of peace. This Wednesday, Veterans Day, Our Lady of the Rosary Assembly 4th Degree Knights of Columbus is sponsoring the 8 A.M. Mass honoring our Veterans, especially our WW II heroes with Fr. John as the celebrant. The Marine Corps League of Naples will present and post the Colors and fire a rifle salute, honoring those who have fallen in service to our country. Please join us on this special occasion to thank our veterans who have preserved our freedom. Complimentary refreshments will be served in the PLC following Mass.

New York City Marathon update:

My marathon journey began at 6:00 am on Sunday, November 1st as I ventured into the subway to catch the F train to Bryant Park where I would take a bus to the start on Staten Island. Unfortunately, as my train pulled away from the 50th street stop, things went downhill. The train stopped and there I sat with approximately 10 very sketchy passengers none of whom I dared to approach to ask for assistance. After 40 minutes, we began moving and ultimately crawled into Bryant Park. As I exited the subway, a race official told me that if I hurried, I could still catch the "last" bus. I was literally the last person to board the last bus to Staten Island. It was raining all the way to Fort Wadsworth and I was not looking forward to 26.2 miles of cold rain. As luck would have it, the rain stopped right before the start and the temperature hovered around 50 degrees. Overcast and cool are ideal running conditions for me, especially considering that I had been training in 90 degree temperatures. At 9:40 am, Mayor Bloomberg fired the starting cannon and we were off over the Verrazano Narrows bridge into Brooklyn (attached is a picture of the bridge with some fall foliage.) There are over 2 million spectators along the course and the mood was "electric." Leaving Queens, my nemesis (Queensboro Bridge) got the best of me once again but as I turned onto 1st Avenue in Manhattan to the screams of hundreds of thousands of spectators, I came back to life. Next stop is the Bronx and home of the infamous "Wall" at mile 20. I was beginning to fade but as I headed back into central park again to deafening crowds, I regained my composure and hunkered down for the remaining four miles. Turning onto Central Park South, there is only one mile to go and adrenaline alone carried me back into the park at mile 26. I then saw my wife, daughter and mother in law and high fived them as I tried to find an extra gear to carry me to the finish. I ultimately finished the race in 3 hours 8 minutes and 48 seconds or nearly five minutes better than last year. I was in the top four percent (1,702 out of 42,000 runners) that participated in this year's 40th running of the NYC marathon. Thank you once again for your prayers and for letting me share my experience with you all.

In His work together,
Scott Schlossberg, MBA, General Manager