

## Scott's Corner

While writing my weekly column, I cannot help but think of how blessed we are to be living in "paradise." The current temperature in Chicago is 22 degrees with light snow. The current temperature in Naples is 63 degrees headed up to a high of 72 degrees. And let us not forget that winter doesn't officially begin for another two weeks. For the next ten days, the temperature in many areas of the Midwest and Northeast will not reach 40 degrees while we will be basking in cloudless skies with temperatures in the 70's. Although our recent and forecast temperatures are going to be slightly below normal, I seriously doubt anyone is complaining. If anyone has ever questioned why so many people choose to winter in Naples, the next ten days are a prime example. While it is true that during "season" we must deal with increased traffic congestion and arrive at Mass 30 minutes early for a good seat, it sure beats the alternative of driving on icy roads in bone chilling cold.

The following is an email excerpt from a representative of the St. Vincent De Paul Society regarding the recent food drive held here at St. John the Evangelist.

**Recently, each morning when I watch the morning news and hear another charity bemoaning their lack of food, I am able to say thanks to Our Lord for the generosity of our local catholic parishioners. Especially this past weekend! The parishioners of St. John the Evangelist have responded in typical fashion. Wow, what a collection. I had the honor of helping unload the truck yesterday and the process felt like the proverbial never-ending quest. Although we will distribute the food rapidly, given today's need, these bags of food will help feed many, many families in this upcoming Holy season. Thank you and God bless your pastor and parish staff, each donor, our dedicated Vincentians and the wonderful young people who helped load the truck.**

On behalf of the St. Vincent De Paul Society, I would like to thank those that gave so generously this past Thanksgiving at the 9:00 am Mass. The total collection was just shy of \$13,000.00 or an increase of 5.5% over last year. As a reminder, the entire collection from Thanksgiving Day Mass was allocated to the St. Vincent De Paul Society so that they may assist needy families in our area. The only sources of income for our local chapter are the collections on Thanksgiving Day and St. Patrick's Day as well as donations made through the poor box. Thank you once again for your generosity! This is an amazing collection from one single Mass.

Although we have received numerous positive comments regarding the newly designed parish bulletin, there have also been several recommendations to further its enhancement. The biggest concern seems to be with respect to the font size of some of the print. Due to the enormous amount of content in the bulletin, space is at a premium and we have reduced the font size in many areas to accommodate all of the requests. We will work to increase the font size where possible so that everyone will be able to read the "fine print."

We have broken the \$400,000.00 barrier with respect to the Catholic Faith Appeal. With approximately six weeks remaining, we are well within reach of our goal of \$460,894.00. If you are a seasonal resident or visitor, please make your check payable to the Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) with St. John the Evangelist in the memo line. Thank you to everyone that has given so generously this year in an effort to help us reach this elusive goal.

On behalf of our brothers and sisters at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Kingston, Jamaica, thank you for your outpouring of generosity. The 2<sup>nd</sup> collection from Masses held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> totaled over \$17,000.00. Your donations will be used to fund ongoing educational programs at the DuPont School as well as assisting with operating expenses at the parish.

Thank you so much for supporting St. John the Evangelist.

In His work together,

Scott Schlossberg, MBA  
General Manager