

# Father's Notes

*May 18, 2025*

There are several things I've wanted to start at our parishes. One is to have more Parish-Community Events. Perhaps we could have five or six occasions throughout the year that we come together to celebrate our Catholic faith, but is also social, nurturing community. I'm not gifted in planning things like his, so if you are, please reach out!

I've also wanted to host a Parish Mission each year. These are three or four day events, in which we invite an outside speaker to come to our parish(es) to present our Catholic faith and how to live it, in a way that helps us grow as individuals and as community. I've seen the fruit that can come from it.

I'll pause to make an observation: I believe our Spanish-speaking community (at both parishes) is currently more active and has more already in place. Yes, we should plan to do more with the Spanish-speaking community, but I see much greater and immediate need in our English-speaking communities.

I'll continue: I would like to establish a weekly Men's Group and Women's Group. It's possible that things like this going on already, and I'm unaware. It's important that men develop relationships with other men on the basis of our Christian faith, to help each other to be stronger brothers, fathers, husbands. Likewise with women. Please let me know if you are interested, and I can perhaps offer a basic template. Perhaps we could alternate months of meeting at St. Thomas and St. Philomena.

Finally, two more things. I am well aware that there's a desire (and a need!) to have events and programs for Young Adults. This is so important. I've asked Fr. Ben to put together a schedule and he has agreed. You will see dates soon. I look forward to assisting Fr. Ben and am grateful for him taking this important task.

Finally, I want to create opportunities for Adult Faith Formation. I've put together a schedule of events for the summer which you will see further posted.

On Thu, June 12th I'll present on Praying the Liturgy of the Hours (90 minutes) - 10:00am at St. Thomas and 6:30pm at St. Philomena.

On Thu, July 3rd I'll present on Making a Religious Pilgrimage (90 minutes) - 6:30pm at St. Philomena only.

Also, starting on July 17th, I'll present a 6-part series on the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. More to come on that. It's scheduled for Thursday mornings at St. Thomas and Thursday evenings at St. Philomena.

Please mark your calendars. Another factor as we consider these things. We are more limited on meeting space at St. Philomena. We'll have to work through that. In the meantime, please pray for more opportunities (and your response) for life in our parish.



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