

Greetings:

October is here! I would like to inform you that I will be gone from October 12th through the 24th. I will be going to Rome to the canonization Mass of the first Venezuelan saints; Dr Jose Gregorio Hernandez and Mother Carmen Rendiles. They will be canonized by Pope Leo on October 19th along with five others. The Catholic Church in Venezuela has been waiting for this historical moment for more than 70 years. Please pray for me and the other pilgrims to have safe travels!

Fr Nathaniel will also be gone the last week of October for a well-deserved break! When one of the priests is gone, there will only be one weekday Mass celebrated in the ACC. Please, check the Bulletin for changes in the Mass schedule. Fr Tom Becker will be my sub for the Sunday Masses on October 12th and Fr LeRoy Schik on Oct 18th & 19th. Please welcome them.

The Diocese of St Cloud continues to prepare for the future as we face the present shortage of priests. This obviously affects the number of Masses offered throughout our Diocese. Our Bishop has expressed concern for the health of his priests and has said that at the present time he has nobody on the bench if any of us dies or gets sick. Following the wisdom of the Church, Bishop Patrick agrees that the number of Masses per priest on weekends should be three (3). Church experience tells us that after three Masses fatigue takes its toll and the health of the priest is put at risk. Fr Nathaniel and I will begin to move in that direction next year, therefore, instead of eight Masses we will have six Masses in our four parishes of the Northern Cross ACC on the weekends. I believe January is a good time to begin because we generally don't have summer parishioners during the winter months. The changes will be posted in a few weeks at the entrance of each church.

Praying for the dead is a spiritual work of Mercy. The deacons and priests from our Northern Cross ACC will say a prayer for the souls of those buried in our cemeteries on October 31st, November 1st and November 2nd. You are invited to join us on any of those days. We'll begin on October 31st at St Stan's Cemetery and St Henry's Cemetery (3pm). On November 1st we will be at Sacred Heart's Cemetery (9:15am) and St Joseph and Dora Cemeteries (10am) and on November 2nd we will be at St Lawrence (11:40am).

Please save the date for an upcoming concert featuring Tony Melendez. Tony was born a thalidomide baby and so plays the guitar with his feet. He will be in concert at St. Henry Church on Friday, October 24th at 1:00PM. This will be a free will offering event. All are welcome to join us for this amazing concert.

Thank you for your prayers, donations and volunteer work that make a big difference for our parishes. This past Wednesday we celebrated the memorial of St Therese of the Child Jesus. Her spirituality was called the "little way" which means doing small things with great faith and devotion. St Therese teaches us that we are not expected to do extraordinary things but to do little things well out of love for God and neighbor. May we all come to learn the little way and be perfect Christians on our paths of life.

May God bless you throughout these last months of the year!

Fr Omar