

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus:

As I mentioned at last Sunday's Masses, you deserve to hear the truth about the allegations raised in a letter many of you received from Mr. Patrick Marker. Pat Marker was abused by a member of my community while he was a student. The Abbey acknowledged the abuse inflicted by a member of the community, settled Mr. Marker's claim and has tried to engage him in helping other victims. Mr. Marker has chosen a different path. He has dedicated himself to raising doubts and undermining the integrity of Abbey members, including those who are innocent of these horrendous actions.

Mr. Marker often uses innuendo and unsubstantiated claims in his attacks on innocent Abbey members, as he did in the letter he sent to parishioners. For example, he links my name with Jacob Wetterling and Josh Guimond. The facts are clear. I was in France at the time of the Jacob Wetterling kidnapping. While I was on campus when Josh Guimond disappeared, I did not personally know him. The families of these two victims have suffered enough without Mr. Marker recklessly raising issues that have no basis in fact. Mr. Marker's letter does not deserve a point-by-point rebuttal. Suffice it to say that his allegations against me are an unwarranted and unjust attack on my reputation.

Saint John's Abbey deeply regrets the pain and harm suffered by Mr. Marker and other victims of abuse. The Abbey has worked with victims who have come forward to help them in their healing. The policy of Saint John's Abbey is to evaluate all credible claims about members of our community. We have enforced this policy consistently and rigorously. Our policy of evaluation and investigation has led us to painful truths about some members of our community. We have taken appropriate actions to sanction those who have abused and to assure that they will not be able to do so again.

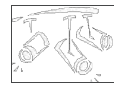
I ask for your prayers and support as we go forward. Saint John's Abbey and the Diocese of Saint Cloud have responded to the legitimate and authentic claims of sexual abuse and will continue to put the victims of abuse ahead of any other interest.

I wish you peace and blessings!

Fr. Jerome Tupa, OSB
Pastor

Precautions During the Flu Season

Our bishop John Kinney has sent out a notice that, during the flu season, we are to discontinue distributing the Holy Cup at all Masses. He has also requested, because of possible contagion, that we no longer give the Sign of Peace prior to Communion. Because of the severity of this strain of flu, we need to wash our hands as often as possible.



Ministry Spotlight:

USHER

Ushers provide hospitality at weekend liturgies and other liturgical celebrations. Ushers assist with seating; take up the offering; distribute bulletins; attend to special needs such as sickness, restrooms, and reserved seating; and ensure that the building is left in a tidied condition. In addition, during the *Making Room at Our Table* construction project, ushers assist weekend and holyday Mass-goers who request assistance with transportation to and from the church and east parking lot. Ushers should arrive 30 minutes prior to liturgies.

To be successful at ushering, the ideal usher is hospitable; has knowledge of the building and procedures; and has a mature, yet gentle and caring, personality that can be effective in leading people in adult situations.

Training is provided. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please contact David Orzechowski at liturgy@churchstjoseph.org or 363-7505, ext. 123. The ministry of Usher belongs to the Commission of Worship.

Additional ministry opportunities are described in the Sharing the Ministry Handbook found in the bookrack in the East Entrance of the church and on the "Ministry Commitment" page under the Stewardship menu of the parish website. You may call the parish office at 363-7505, ext. 100 to express an interest in any ministry of our parish.



Ushers and Greeters are Needed

We are in need of more Ushers and Greeters for Mass. As a Benedictine parish, hospitality has always been and continues to be a number one priority for our community. This is especially true now during our construction project! Are you able to help in either of these important ministries? If so, please contact David Orzechowski at 363-7505, ext. 123 or liturgy@churchstjoseph.org.