

September 24, 2023

A Note from Fr. José Arroyo

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

This past Saturday, I returned from a pilgrimage with priests in Medjugorje, Bosnia & Heregovina, as well a retreat with these priests on a beautiful island in Croatia. The retreat was led by Fr. Jozo, a Franciscan priest, who was the pastor of the visionaries when they were children. He now has cancer, and desires to dedicate the last years of his life to spiritual formation by giving retreats to laity and clergy alike.

Recently, many beautiful things have happened for the benefit and growth of our beloved parish family. Several families contributed to the landscaping improvements of the church property. We had the annual parish picnic at Paige's Crossing. I am very grateful to Alison Elliot and the whole parish picnic team. We had a family who quietly donated money to have some of the carpets professionally cleaned. We had Ryne Schaden, a professional musician who has attended our parish for many years, contribute immensely with the upgrading of the sound system that has been problematic lately. This will benefit all liturgies and we are very grateful to Ryne. We had a very important Mission Appeal to which many of you contributed. We had Fr. Peter Dee De with us from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, who was raising funds for our brothers and sisters in Myanmar (borders India and China). Thank you to all who contributed to the missions! We also had the opportunity to make a major repair in our main entrances by replacing the concrete. This will benefit all, including the disabled and those who come for funerals and weddings.

Speaking of which, we congratulate Mercedes Ransbottom who recently married her wonderful husband, Alec. Mercedes is one of our new catechists and is helping to teach our children as they prepare for the reception of their First Holy Communion. On that note, I am eternally grateful to our staff and volunteers, including the newly formed Religious Education and the Youth Team for their intense effort to begin a new year. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We also had a beautiful beginning for the newly formed Bible Study Team which had 33 people for two groups (morning and evening sessions). This is a beautiful reminder of the amazing goodness that exists in our parishioners and that we should never get tired of reaching out to our fellow parishioners to challenge them to put into service their God-given gifts and talents.

Adult Religious Catechesis (ARC) has hosted a Q and A session once again and RCIA had many new faces which gives us hope and much joy! The church is alive! Please continue to pray for the sick and the suffering who make up an important part of our parish family! God bless you and your loved ones!

Annual Life Chain for Whitley County

Right to Life of North Central Indiana is sponsoring the annual Life Chain on Sunday afternoon, October 1, from 1:45 to 3:00 pm (rain or shine). Participants will stand along Main Street in downtown Columbia City holding non-graphic signs provided at no cost. Those who cannot stand are welcome to bring a chair. Signs can be picked up on the east side of the Whitley County courthouse beginning at 1:30 pm on October 1. For more information, go to: www.nci4life.org.

Collections for September 17, 2023

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Adult Offering Envelopes | \$ 1,489.00 |
| Loose | \$ 422.11 |
| Candles | \$ 25.00 |
| Repair Fund | \$ 57.00 |
| CCD | \$ 10.00 |
| Fr. Dee De Mission Appeal | \$ 1,436.00 |
| Total in pews: | \$ 3,439.11 |

Online Collections

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Reg. Envelopes | \$ 1,857.00 |
| Repair Fund | \$ 304.00 |
| Second Collection | \$ 111.00 |
| Other | \$ 78.00 |
| Total Online | \$ 2,350.00 |

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday in

Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

Sept. 23rd St. Pius of Pietreicina (Sat)
5:00 p.m. † Jerry Zorger

Sept. 24th Twenty-Fifth (Sunday)
8:00 a.m. † Mark Chrzanowski
10:30 a.m. Parishioners
2:00 p.m. Por la salud de Jennifer Garcia

(Eucharistic Adoration one hour before each Mass)
(Holy Rosary 30 minutes before each Mass)

September 25th Weekday (Monday)
8:00 a.m. Living & deceased of the Ness family

September 26th Weekday (Tuesday)
8:00 a.m. Living & deceased of the Lewis Brown family

Sept. 27th St. Vincent de Paul (Wed.)
5:00 p.m. † Keith & Roedean Dowell

Sept. 28th Weekday (Thursday)
8:00 a.m. † Kay Sovine

Sept. 29th St. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael (Friday)
8:00 a.m. Jim Schmitt

Sept. 30th St. Jerome (Saturday)
9:00 a.m. † Larry Reynolds
5:00 p.m. † Albert Andreas

October 1st Twenty - Sixth (Sunday)
8:00 a.m. Parishioners
10:30 a.m. † Issac Elliott
2:00 p.m. † Rubén González

St. Vincent DePaul Corner

Clients served on September 18, 2023

Daytime

Families **36** People **116** New **3**
Gas cards **1**

Evening

6 people **28** family **2** New
NEEDS: toilet paper, paper towels,
cereal, canned vegetables and monetary

Thank you to all of you for your generous donations. God bless you all.

If you would like to help with St. Vincent DePaul, please contact the office and leave a message for Barb Bockelman or Sara St. Clair. Thank you so very much for your ongoing support! Please keep in mind that St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry is open EVERY Monday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If Monday falls directly on a holiday, we will not be open. Evening hours are the third Monday of the month from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The Knights of Columbus announce that we will be participating in the National Coats for Kids campaign again this year. We are currently taking preorders and donations for the program. We have partnered this year with the Salvation Army of Whitley County. Currently there is a need for about 400 winter coats for children and teens of our community. If you have a child or teen or know of a child or teen that needs a Winter Coat, please fill out one of our order forms located at the Knights of Columbus stand in the Narthex. If you have not already filled out a form with the Salvation Army, please fill one out so we can get enough coats to fill the needs.

The Coats are purchased thru the Knights of Columbus and the average cost is \$23.00 per coat. If you wish to donate, please drop in the container on the stand as well. Distribution of the Coats will be on Saturday, October 7th beginning at 9 a.m.

The Ulma Family

Farmer Jozef Ulma, 44, and his 31-year-old pregnant wife Wiktoria were murdered on March 24, 1944, along with their children: Stanislaw, Maria, Barbara, Wladyslaw, Antoni, Franciszek and Wiktoria's unborn child. The children's ages ranged from 7 years to 18 months old.

Catholic University of America professor Rev. Robert Gahl told the Associated Press that the Catholic Church's beatification of the child affirmed that Nazis killed the child out of anti-Catholic hatred. The intent is required for martyrdom and beatification.

The next step after beatification is canonization, in which the beatified are declared to be saints. A miracle credited to

the Ulmas' intercession would be required for sainthood.

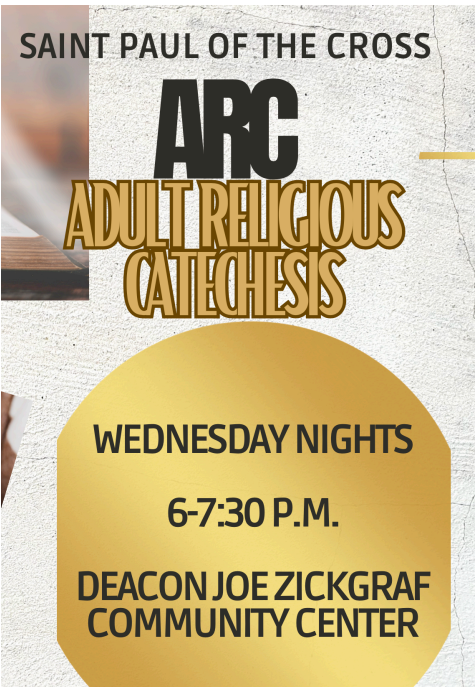
The Ulmas' deaths came around four and a half years after the Nazis first invaded Poland, which took place on Sept. 1, 1939. Approximately six million Polish were killed during the war, and roughly half of them were Jewish.

The devoutly Catholic family was killed at their home by Nazis. Authorities were apparently tipped off about the Ulmas harboring Jews, who were also killed.

The Catholic Church beatified a Polish family that sheltered Jews during World War II on Sunday, calling them "a ray of light in the darkness."

The Latin formula of the Ulma family's beatification was signed by Pope Francis in August. A Mass took place in Markowa, Poland, where Cardinal Marcello Semeraro said that the family "paid the highest price of martyrdom" because of their "gesture of hospitality and care, of mercy."

At St. Peter's Square in Vatican City, Pope Francis told the public that the Ulmas "represented a ray of light in the darkness" and should be a model for all Catholics servicing others.



Every parish in the diocese is being asked to have a 40 Hours Devotion event during the parish year of Eucharistic Revival. Ours is scheduled for Sunday, October 22nd through Tuesday, October 24th. We are very excited to have National Eucharistic Preacher Fr. Stephen Hayes coming to speak during our 40 Hours. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details about the amazing event!

A recent pew study showed that **53%** of former Catholics say that at least part of their decision to leave the Church was related to LGBTQ issues. It's important to know what the Church actually teaches and how to compassionately discuss this issue. Please join us on Wednesday at 6:00 in the Community Center.



The next Young at Heart will be Thursday, September 28th. We will begin with Mass at 10:30 AM followed by a short faith-based discussion. We will end our time together with food and fellowship! Sign up in the Narthex.

RCIA is off to a fantastic start! It's not too late for you to join if you are interested in discerning joining the Catholic Church. Remember, RCIA is not just for people who are new to the faith! It is for anyone who wants to learn more about the teachings of the Catholic Church! Come and join the team: Bill Duffy, Michelle Alles, Mary Jo Brock, and Jill Gaff on Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30 PM!

