



# St. Andrew Parish School

School  Church  Community

115 South 7th Street \* Delavan, WI 53115 \* 262-728-6211 \* fax = 262-728-3683

*“St. Andrew Parish School is where faith and knowledge meet.  
We are called to Teach, Reflect, and Live the Gospel”.*

Parent Newsletter – March 27, 2017

Good Morning St. Andrews Professional Learning Community,

As we enter the 4th Week of Lent, we continue to celebrate. We continue to have many wonderful activities, traditions, and new things happening at the Parish and at School. Please stay tuned, be active, and mostly help celebrate Lent with your family. Here's the latest list of wonderful things St. Andrew's Parish and School has been up to:

## **Recent Events / Gratitudes**

I want to express my pride and congratulations to our 2016-2017 Spartan “Battle of the Books” Team for their competing last Wednesday, 3/22 at St. Charles in Burlington. I want to recognize the following: Jennifer Ruesch, Joe Brusa, Jaxson Pugesek, Becca Schweigel, Grace Brown, Emmet Clair, Roxy Colin, Ian McLenathan, Michael O’Grady, Quinn O’Grady, Anna Quartucci, and Delanie Thone. I want to also thank the following Staff for their hard work making this happen for our Students: Miss Alyse Compall, Mrs. Laura VanderVeen, and Ms. Jeanie Bleser. Thank you all for your hard work! Congrats!

I also want to take this time to thank Chief O'Neill of the Delavan Police Department lending us Lt. Ryan Milligan last Thursday to help train our Staff in specific Safety Procedures. Being Safe is a skill and we know skills need to be practiced to be second nature. Lt. Milligan was outstanding. We look forward to continue to work with Lt. Milligan to develop and strengthen our skills in being safe for all.

## Safety Reminders

### 1. St. Andrew's Crosswalk:

Just a gentle reminder, there are no patrols or adults available in the morning hours before school to monitor the crosswalk(s) at the corner of 7th Street & Walworth Ave. We do have Staff on duty after school Monday-Friday at the crosswalk to monitor children's safety. Please make sure you speak with your children and if possible walk with them in the am hours if possible. Thank you.

### 2. Internet / Electronics Supervision:

My goal for next year is to bring a specialist in with whom I have had the privilege working with regarding Internet/Electronic Safety. Parents, please take control of your student's electronics. Are you a friend on their chat sites? Can you follow them and know what their saying, what sites they're going to? Have you checked their browsing history? Do you have safety measures in place in their settings to get special permission for certain apps? Websites?

Once one hits "enter" it is on the web "FOREVER"!! You can never get it back. One may think it's deleted, but it's on that electronic's IP address forever; that's how law enforcement can get info. If one receives something and then forwards it to a friend, a minor, we have serious issues.

Please be diligent at home. When home IT issues affect school life, then it can affect how we delineate permission to use School technology. Please have this careful and very simple preventative conversation and plan with your student. It's better than living in the land of reaction and perhaps any negative consequences. Thanks for your time helping out students be safe and appropriate with technology.

## Upcoming Events / Service Requests

**HELP:** Parents, Grandparents, Guardians, etc., we are asking for your help. If your student is a car rider and is picked up in the parking lot, please have your last name in the visor so our Staff can safely direct your student to you in a safe-timely manner. We have Staff that do not know everyone yet and this allows everyone to identify with whom we should give your kids to safely in the parking lot. We appreciate your help with this. Thanks.

Catholics at the Capitol is an event you can see at the Arch website at: [archmil.org](http://archmil.org). The event is taking place in Madison on March 28 from 8a-5p.

If you missed Kindergarten open house or Kindergarten Screening and you may know someone who maybe interested to join St. Andrews in the Fall, please have them contact: Ms. Pearce (Kindergarten Teacher) at: [spearce@standrewsparishschool.com](mailto:spearce@standrewsparishschool.com) or call our Main Office at: 262-728-6211. Thanks.

The end of the Academic 3rd Quarter was last Friday, 3/24. Grades will be scheduled to go home on Thursday, 3/30. As Quarterly grades are representative of the students' skill acquisition, it can be a predictor of their successes at the end of the Semester. It is the Semester grades that have more "weight" as students progress from us to the High School. Please help our students who need extra practice with their skills at home or offer them an opportunity to stay for Homework Club (Tuesday-Thursday).

As 3rd Quarter Grades are being calculated, there will "no grade" entered in Spanish for 3rd Quarter. The proper reason for no grade is even though students were practicing their basic skills in Spanish, at this time we did not have a "Spanish Teacher" in place. Now that we have Senora Papcke for 4th Quarter, we will see more formative and summative assessments being given. For those who have questions about High School next year, please contact me in the Main Office and we can discuss. Thanks.

As stated earlier in School Newsletters, we discussed that St. Andrew will eventually be moving to a School Wide: "Standards Based Grading and Evaluation". For Fourth Quarter, you should see the following:

1. With all 8th Grade Students, their formative assignments will be weighted: 10% and their summative assignments weighted 90%.
2. In Grades: Kindergarten through 7th, only their MATH classes will be piloting this system.

This gives our staff, students, and families skill practice time as we initiate this new best practice in evaluation. This best practice will be implemented school wide the 2017-2018 Academic School Year. If you have any questions, please contact me in the School Main Office. Thanks.

Lenten Confessions for our 3rd-8th Grade Students will take place after our Student Mass on Friday, 3/31.

Big Ticket Raffle, Clothing Sale, and Fat Tire are fun, upcoming Spring fundraising events that need your support. Please see attached for detailed information. Thank go out to : Ed and Renee Clair, Mrs. Clade, Mrs. Nateghi, and Mrs. Susan O'Grady for Chairing these wonderful and fun events.

1st Communion Retreat is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5th. Please contact Miss Chambers or Mrs. Lemus if you have any questions.

Our Middle Schoolers will be attending a Science Weather Day at Miller Park on Thursday, April 6th (Letters went home last Thursday). This Curricular Field Trip allows students to participate in active-hands on activities learning about weather. Afterwards, students then are rewarded with watching our Milwaukee Brewers play. Thank you Miss Diedrick for helping to put this together.

Lights of Love is scheduled to be on Friday, April 7th. If you have any questions, please call the Main Office to participate. Thank you Mrs. Mary Robers for your hard work creating this wonderful opportunity.

As we work and celebrate with others in our Community, we take this time to celebrate our invitation by Our Redeemer here in Delavan to observe in their School Play scheduled for Friday, 3/31. Our students will be bussed over after lunch, watch the wonderful play, and come back before school is released. What a great way to help support others in the Arts. Go Spartans!!

As March hopefully will be leaving us as a Lamb, our April will be very busy too. Please mark down that Spring Break will be from: 4/10-4/17, with school resuming on Tuesday, 4/18.

Our 8th Graders will start to get their bags ready to be packed for their Washington DC Trip scheduled on: 4/19-4/21. Further details to be coming out in the next few weeks.

### **Parish Communication**

There was a Parish Membership Registration Form that was sent home in the Student's Home Envelope on Thursday, 2/24. If you haven't done so yet, please fill it out accordingly and return to the School so we can forward to the Rectory Office. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Shelley Koch at 262-728-5922. Thank you.

Lenten Confessions will take place for our 3rd Grade-8th Grade Students on Friday, March 31 right after our 2nd Grade Student Mass. If you have any questions, please contact the Rectory Office or call the Main Office. Thank you.

2017 Parish Summer Festival planning is underway. If you have any questions on how one can help, or what is needed, please reach out to Shelley Koch in the Parish Office. Thank you all who help make this a spectacular event!!

## School Communication

### Primary & Intermediate News (K-4)

If you missed Kindergarten Open House or Kindergarten Screening and know someone who maybe interested in joining St. Andrew in the fall, please have them contact: Ms. Pearce (Kindergarten Teacher) at: [spearce@standrewsparishschool.com](mailto:spearce@standrewsparishschool.com) or call our Main Office at: 262-728-6211. Thanks.

Our 2nd Graders will be participating in a fun “IPad Fundraiser” sponsored by Thrivent Investments. This great experience brought to us by Mrs. Heather Kucharski helps gives students the ability and skill to start to understand effort, work, savings, and goal setting can pay dividends. Thank you all for your hard work and looking forward to see how hard the class as a team can work together!

### Middle School News (5-8)

Homework Club supports Middle School Students from Tuesday-Thursday, 3:30p-4p. This a great way to get some more individualized attention when one needs help with skill development. **IF A STUDENT IS REQUESTING OR REQUESTED TO JOIN HOMEWORK CLUB, THEY WILL NOT BE RELEASED UNTIL 4P UNLESS ARRANGED WITH MAIN OFFICE IN ADVANCE.** If you have any questions, please contact your Student’s Teacher or please call Main Office. Thank you.

8th Graders for the rest of the year will be submitting their “Spartan Spotlight” biographies for publication. As Biographies come into the Main Office, I will be submitting these to the masses as I receive them and to Mrs. Lefel so she can publish them in the Parish Newsletter. Please read the attached biographies that describe their thoughts on St. Andrews. Great Job everyone. We are very proud of you!!

There was a Letter that went home this last week to inform Middle School (5-8) Families about our scheduled Science Field Trip on Thursday, April 6th at Miller Park. If you have any questions, please contact Miss Diedrick at: [hdiedrick@standrewsparishschool.com](mailto:hdiedrick@standrewsparishschool.com). Or the Main Office. Thank you.

Thank you to all of our Middle School “Solid Gold” Dancers as they held their Middle School Dance on Friday, 3/10. Monies raised for this event went to the Wisconsin Leukemia/Lymphoma Society located in Brookfield. St. Andrew’s donated: 12, 600 pennies or \$126.00. Great job everyone and what a great cause to help out.

### **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Opportunities:**

#### **UW-Whitewater:**

*“Greetings from University of Wisconsin - Whitewater! It’s that time of year to think about summer camps!*

*You are invited to visit our website for information regarding the 2017 CyberGirlz camp. CyberGirlz for 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls will be held July 18-19, 2017. Camp will run from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.*

*Registration is open now. If your daughter or someone you know will be entering 6th, 7th or 8th grade beginning fall 2017, follow this link to learn more and register: <http://uww.edu/techcamps/cybergirlz> (Copy and paste this link into a new browser if you can't click on it). We do anticipate filling the camp early, so please register as soon as possible.*

*Beginning this year, CyberGirlz will require a registration fee of \$15, due to rising camp costs and upgraded technology. The registration fee includes all camp materials, a camp t-shirt, daily lunch and snacks, and giveaways. We also have some exciting new activities included in our camp that we think the girls will love! Scholarships are available to campers with financial need.*

*If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [262-472-1322](tel:262-472-1322) or email at [techcamps@uww.edu](mailto:techcamps@uww.edu). We hope to see you on campus this summer.”.*

Thanks Mrs. Julie Quartucci for bringing this to us.

#### **University of Chicago/ Yerkes Observatory:**

At Yerkes Observatory this Summer, many wonderful opportunities for our budding young Spartan Scientists will have access to many YAAYS CAMPS (Yerkes Astrophysics Academy for Young Scientists). If you are interested in many cool activities, please call: 262-245-555 or visit their website at [YerkesOutreach.org/summer-programs](http://YerkesOutreach.org/summer-programs). Thank you Mrs. Sheila Venteicher for bringing this to our kids.

## Special Area Content (Art, Music, Phy-Ed, Spanish)

### Latest News From Mrs. M:

*“ Congratulations to our Wisconsin State Fair Young People's Art Exhibit entrants. Students from grades 6-8 are eligible to enter the exhibit at Wisconsin State Fair. Each school is allowed only 6 entries. Art was selected by a panel of four art professionals. We are extremely proud to announce our students whose work will be going to State Fair. They are: Grade 8-John Moses and Kyle Wright, grade 7-Augustus Foster and Madison Weitz and Grade 6- Grace Brown and Diana Moses. Their work will be judged in early April. We wish them luck!*

*Four second grade students have been invited to show their chalice designs with prayers this week in the **Art as Prayer** exhibit at Christ Episcopal Church. They are Ella Kucharski, Kaiya Logterman, Morgan O'Neill and Emma Roberts Work by Miss Marsicano will also be shown. Artists reception and show opening is Wednesday, March 22 from 6:30-8:30pm. Other hours include Thurs. & Fri 10-1, Sat. 10-2 and Sun. 11:30-1. Congratulations to all our students.” Thanks Ms. M. for all of your help!!*

Mr. Trow wanted to thank all Jump Roping Spartans who helped raise funds for this year's Jump Rope for Heart Event held here at school. Individuals who raised certain levels of monies were rewarded with a private lunch with Mr. Trow too!. Mr. Trow did state if the school succeeded their goal of “\$2000.00” he would let the students choose what costume he has to come to school dressed in for the day. I think the students picked a “Lion”. We'll what kind of courage this Mr. Lion will have that day and make sure we take lots of pics! Thanks Mr. Trow for being awesome.

### School Committee News

Recently with the support of the School Committee, we held a “Town-Hall” meeting that tried its' best to communicate the current “State of the School” and Parish. This symbiotic relationship is critical for the growth and success of St. Andrew. The School Committee Meeting is very active right now with: Big Ticket Raffle, Clothing Sale, and Fat Tire events happening. We also like to congratulate Sara Szczap as the Committees' new member; welcome Sara! The next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, 4/6 at 7p in the Teacher's Work Room. If you have any concerns or want something discussed, please forward it to Ed Clair, Chip Robers, or myself for Committee discussion. Thank you.

The School Committee is proud to roll out the “20th Annual Big Ticket Raffle” to be held Wednesday, April 19th at 6:30p at the Delavan Legion Hall. There will be a “\$10,000 Grand Prize” amongst many other prizes such as Big Screen TV's, Electronics, and Outdoor Living Accessories. We will be serving food (Burgers and Brats) and fun during the Raffle. If interested, please contact Mrs. Renee Clair. A flyer will be attached to this letter along with a hard copy in your Student's Weekly Letter home on Thursday. Good Luck :)

**Fat Tire News:**

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

### FAT TIRE DELAVAN LAKE

Part of our mission as educators and parents is to prepare our kids for tomorrow. It's no secret that students today need to be technology literate. Computers, Ipads, Smart-boards and other technology tools play a huge role in preparing our students for high school, college and their future careers. It is important that we all do our part to make sure that St. Andrew's has the right tools for our kids and we definitely need the help of our community to make that happen.

Last year's event was extremely helpful in obtaining funds for a large project of training and purchasing Chromebooks for the entire school. Your participation and generosity that has allowed us to be so fortunate. Our next goal with technology is obviously to keep up the equipment we have, but we also need to start advancing forward to make sure our school is preparing our children for high school. Most of the area's high school use chromebooks. Chromebooks provide access to the web's education and collaboration resources. Using Chromebooks, teachers spend more time teaching and less time managing classroom technology, and schools can deploy more computers into the hands of their students and teachers. We anticipate the total cost of setting up chromebooks along with teacher training will cost approximately \$30,000, with additional funds each year for upkeep. We hope to raise at least \$10,000 from the 2017 Fat Tire and look at grants and other options to obtain the remainder of the funds.

So what is Fat Tire? It's an active, fun event that involves enjoying the views of Lake Delavan and the company of good spirited fellow bike riders. All proceeds from the event go directly to the reserved technology fund at St. Andrew's and have allowed us to purchase Smartboards, Ipads and computers. We are very big on safety and we encourage all riders to wear a helmet and follow the rules of the road.

How can you participate? Please consider one or more of the following:

1. Sponsor the event or help to obtain new sponsors
2. Donate to the event – we have a silent auction so we accept any type of item that is worthy of a bid!

Past donations have included homemade items, gift certificates, ipods, baked goods, etc.

3. Participate in the event - \$25 per rider
4. Meet us after the event for the 50/50 raffle and silent auction

Please visit our Parish/School Website for more info, easy registration, and easy donation opportunities. Hope to see you there!



## **Parent School Association (PSA) News**

### **1. St. Andrew Annual Fund:**

I want thank Hollie Lefel with her efforts for trying to get **100% participation** with all classes for the St. Andrew's Annual Fund. Let's continue to show our students, our families, and our Parish that we are too invested financially in our school. It's not about the amount, it's always about did we try, did we give it our best shot? Please continue to support the Annual Fund. Any questions, please contact Hollie or the Main Office directly. Thanks.

### **2. Box Tops for Education:**

*"DID YOU KNOW?"*

*This website (<http://www.boxtops4education.com/coupons>) saves you money!! Print coupons to use when buying Box Tops products! Coming soon - a Box Tops Blitz! Stay Tuned!!*

*In the meantime:*

*(1) Keep clipping Box Tops! Please ask family, friends and co-workers to clip and save for St. Andrews, too!*

*Box Tops can be turned in at school or in a bright pink box at the back of church.*

*(2) Enter current Box Tops sweepstakes DAILY (takes less than one minute!)*

*NEW: Go Big Win Big Sweepstakes - Three schools will win 10,000 Bonus Box Tops. (A value of \$1000).*

*Enter daily through April 9th, 2017.*

*<http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/sweepstakes/2017/yoplait-go-big>*

*(3) Keep an eye out for specially-marked packages containing Box Tops Bonus Codes. When entered online, you can win 1 Million Box Tops for St. Andrews (A value of \$100,000.00!)*

*Use this website to enter codes: <https://www.1millionboxtops.com/>*

*4) Download the Box Tops app on your Apple or Android smartphones. Scan your receipt to earn Bonus Box Tops.*

*Any questions, please contact Heather Kucharski at [DandHKucharski@hotmail.com](mailto:DandHKucharski@hotmail.com)! Thanks for your support!*

### **3. School Spirit Wear:**

*After speaking with Greg at MMPR, the St. Andrew Spirit Wear Online Store is open and will remain open until the end of the school year! Greg also tells me not only embroidered items but silk-screen items will be avail as well as MMPR is going above and beyond for St.*

Andrews. We recently opened up an opportunity to order Adidas Polos as well; there is much to choose from. The Spring Collection should be coming out next month. Until then, please

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visit the following website to directly order your Spirit Wear. Remember, monies from all sales go directly back to the School with every purchase!

<http://www.mmprinc.net/product-category/andrew16/>

#### 4. **Lights of Love:**

*The Lights of Love - Help commemorate the special people in your life by purchasing a love light in their honor. These lights are dedicated to celebrating the special people in all of our lives, especially during this Easter Season. Whether they are in your life daily or with you in spirit only. Forms went home in Home Envelopes. If you need another envelope or have questions, please contact the Main Office. Please have them filled out and turned in by March 22nd. Thank you Mrs. Mary Robers for your efforts on this.*

#### 5. **Children's Clothing Sale:**

*"Sell your Kids' Clothes for Cash This Friday, March 24 from 2-6 pm or Saturday, March 25 from 10 am-noon is when you can stop by to register to sell your gently used children's clothes, baby equipment, toys, books, games, movies, sports gear and maternity items at the annual Children's Clothing Sale. The sale will be April 22/23, but this weekend is when you get registered with a seller number, instructions, tags, hangers, etc. Enter the school auditorium doors on 7th Street. You keep 60% of the sales and the school receives the other 40%. It is a great way to do some Spring cleaning, earn cash and support the school!"*

<https://standrews-delavan.org/children-clothing-sale.>

Thank you in advance to signing up for a job or two to help Mrs. Thone and Mrs. Nateghi.

7. **Next Meeting:** Monday, March 27th, at 6p in the Teacher's Work Room. All are welcome.

### **Athletics News**

Coach Quartucci and all Spartan Coaches gladly invite all Volleyball and Basketball Student Athletes and Parents to the Annual Athletic Awards Banquet to be held on Wednesday, April 5th at 6:00p in the Gymnasium. If you have any questions, please contact your Coach or Coach Q. Hope to see all there.

### **IT Committee News**

Thank you for all who support, volunteer, and plan the Tech needs of the School to help us align ourselves to become a “21st Century” School. In doing so, we are in the middle of installing a SmartBoard and Projector in our Music Room, updating the Library Inventory Program, and trying to update our Building WI-FI ability to plan for incoming technology possibly in the near future. We will keep you updated on recent Tech events such as: “Robotics Club” and even our proposed Project Lead the Way. Our next scheduled meeting will be: Thursday, March 23rd at 7a in the School Library. Please see our advertisement regarding the 7th Annual Fat Tire” event that support our IT Committee directly. We hope to see all at the Fat Tire and our IT Committee. Thank you.

### **Professional Learning Community News**

If we are in doubt of what is transpiring in your student's classroom, I highly encourage you to visit their **Classroom Teacher’s Google Home-Page or Option C** for items such as: Homework, Special Events, Quizzes, Tests, any all pertinent information to that Teacher and/or Subject Area. Any questions, please contact that Teacher directly. If you can not read, nor have any questions and further assistance after those attempts (at least 2), then contact me to help out as much as I can. Thanks.

### **Catholic Central March/April News:**

Enclosed within this newsletter is information from Catholic Central in Burlington. Any questions, please reach out to them directly. Thanks.

### **Aram Library Happenings for March & April:**

Please visit the Aram Library Website at: [aramkids@aramlibrary.org](mailto:aramkids@aramlibrary.org)

### **PM-After School Pick Up**

Just a gentle reminder for parents, grandparents, and guardians, please make sure we are picking our students up from the School/Parish Parking Lot not the Rectory area and please try to have your Visor Sign displayed so we can transition students more safely and quickly. Thank you.

### **Leadership / Volunteer Opportunities**

We appreciate all of those who volunteer, chaperone, coach, and do amazing things for our students. If one is interested, one must have completed the “SafeGuarding” training from the Archdiocese. If you are interested, please contact Shelly Koch at 262-728-5922 for more info. Thanks.

### **Certified/Substitute Teaching:**

If you know someone who is **certified to teach or substitute teach** with a current Wisconsin DPI License, and who may be interested in substitute teaching here at St. Andrew, please forward their name and contact information. Thank you.

### **Noon Recess Supervision Lottery Winners for the Week of 3/27-3/31:**

Mrs. Heather Kucharski

### **Message from Archbishop ListECKi**

*“Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*Next Tuesday, a number of our Catholic faithful and I will make our way to Madison – our state capitol – to participate in “Catholics at the Capitol.” Every two years, all five dioceses of the State of Wisconsin gather together to exercise our right to participate in our democratic process.*

*My first involvement with “Catholics at the Capitol” was as bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse. I was proud to lead a contingency of La Crosse Catholics, students and parishioners. I was very impressed by the major addresses and the breakout sessions that informed the participants and presented the Catholic positions on a number of issues. This gathering is sponsored by the Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC), the representative arm of the bishops to state legislators.*

*Prayers are offered to begin the day, and this year’s keynote address tackles the topic of human trafficking – the buying and selling of human flesh. We often dismiss this topic as something that could not happen in our towns or city, but rather in some underdeveloped countries. Yet all the statistics show that our city, Milwaukee, is a center for human traffickers. This is a modern form of slavery, and should be a concern for all Catholics and Christians who promote the dignity and freedom of all people.*

*The breakout sessions educate Catholics in the various areas of human concerns and the issues of justice, which we face as a Church and community: pro-life, poverty, immigration, education, political responsibility and others. Catholic leaders who are on the front lines of these*

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*various areas conduct these sessions. They offer insights and strategies into an understanding of Catholic teachings.*

*A lunch is served, allowing some time for discussion with fellow participants and sharing some of the practices initiated by them in their parishes and their schools.*

*The day concludes with the participants being invited to walk over to the capitol and meet with their legislators, where they can present their views on these social issues affecting our Church and community.*

*This is a model of peaceful participation in the democratic process. In recent days, the political process has reflected chaos, people shouting so that no one can be heard, ad hominem arguments (name-calling) and an abdication of voting responsibility. “Catholics at the Capitol” returns a dignity that belongs to the best of the political process.*

*In general, the legislators are very kind and generous with their time. These Catholic constituents, either now or in a few short years, will have the power of the vote. It is to their benefit that they listen to their voices. The younger participants learn how to involve themselves in political dialogue and presentations of their issues to their legislators.*

*Some 300 fellow Catholics will participate in the day. I am grateful for the time they take from their busy schedules to attend. They will represent all five of our dioceses, but they are a tiny representation of the over 1.5 million Catholics in the State of Wisconsin. Imagine if even a 1,000 Catholics walked together to the capitol, that optic alone would increase the “political gravitas” of the Catholic voice and issues.*

*If you have a free day on March 28, join me at the capitol with other Catholics to put our faith into action. You can register online by [clicking here](#).*

*Why do we go to the capitol? It’s simple – because we LOVE ONE ANOTHER.*

[\*We Are One.\*](#)

***Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKi***  
*Archbishop of Milwaukee*

**Contemplatives In Action**

I was given a wonderful gift recently by a very dear friend; a book. Within this book are devotions for Every Day of the Year. For today: Monday, March 27th, it spoke of idolatry.

*“Do not seek Me primarily for what I can give you. Remember that I, the Giver, am infinitely greater than any gift I might impart on you. Though I delight in blessing My children, I am deeply grieved when My blessings become idols in their hearts. Anything can be an idol if it distracts you from Me as your First Love. When I am the ultimate Desire of your heart, you are safe from the danger of idolatry. As you wait in My Presence, enjoy the greatest gift of all: Christ in you, the Hope of Glory!”*

Romans 12:2, Revelation 2:14, Colossians 1:27

As I read and comprehend this devotion, it reminds me of times perhaps when one can be stressed, anxious, maybe self absorbing/self-centered. It happens to all of us at one time or another and to many different levels. It tells me that it can be toxic to our Spiritual Health.

I try to daily take a moment to take a step back, look around, and ask myself: “Have I done the best I can for my kids? Family? Friends, fellow colleagues? My Students? Or did I only stop and think how am I going to ‘survive’?” This is a tough place to be and we can easily be consumed by our own immediate needs.

Take a “Examen” (of consciousness) written and described by St. Ignatius Loyola. *Center myself, Ask myself How am I doing?, Ask why am I feeling this way? And then Pray.* This moment of spiritual “Red Bull” will help us reconnect our hearts with God’s Blessings and not only our desires.

Have a great week everyone.

In God’s Love,

Randy