



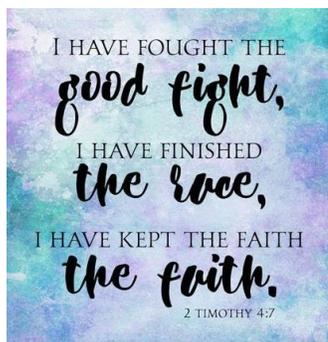
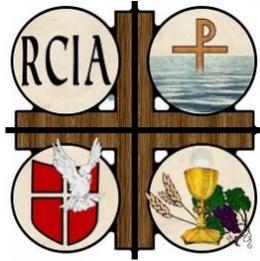
**From the Desk of
Fr. Leo F. Arnone**

**Remember: The
Sunday 10:30am Mass
at SA will move to
11:00am on Sunday,
September 15.**

Adult Altar Servers Needed: I would like to recruit additional adults to help serve funerals for both SA & FX. Catch me after Mass sometime if available to help. And while on the topic: I invite our retired community to join the ranks of our Friends of Lazarus who fulfill the corporal and spiritual works of mercy in burying and praying for the dead.

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

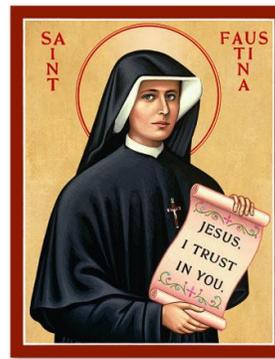
I am pleased to announce that I have four people for this year's RCIA class and I am in hot pursuit of a fifth person! I would like to have our initial meeting on Thursday, Sept. 26 at 5:45 pm at SA Rectory to explain the process, answer any questions, and set a definitive day and time for our weekly sessions. If you or someone you know might be interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, please contact me at 886-2374 or frleoarnone@gmail.com.



“Stay and Fight!” I just finishing reading Bishop Robert Barron’s Letter to a Suffering Church on the sexual abuse crisis. The whole book is enlightening and encouraging, and I particularly like how he ends it. Noting that while some have used the crisis

as reason to leave the Church, he affirms that our fundamental belief in Christ’s Eucharistic Presence in the Church ought to motivate us to stay and fight. He writes:

“Fight by raising your voice in protest; fight by writing a letter of complaint; fight by insisting that protocols be followed; fight by reporting offenders; fight by pursuing the guilty until they are punished; fight by refusing to be mollified by pathetic excuses. But above all, fight by your very holiness of life; fight by becoming the saint that God wants you to be; fight by encouraging a decent young man to become a priest; fight by doing a Holy Hour every day for the sanctification of the Church; fight by coming to Mass regularly; fight by evangelizing; fight by doing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. [...] Perhaps the best way to be a disciple of Christ right now is to stay and fight for his Church.” (101-102)



Divine Mercy in My Soul

**Lessons from the Diary of
St. Maria Faustina**

367 + On one occasion, Jesus gave me to know that when I pray for intentions which people are wont to entrust to me, He is always ready to grant His graces,

but souls do not always want to accept them: **My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners. If only they could understand that I am the best of Fathers to them and that it is for them that the Blood and Water flowed from My Heart as from a fount overflowing with mercy. For them I dwell in the tabernacle as King of Mercy. I desire to bestow My graces upon souls, but they do not want to accept them. You, at least, come to Me as often as possible and take these graces they do not want to accept. In this way you will console My Heart. Oh, how indifferent are souls to so much goodness, to so many proofs of love! My Heart drinks only of the ingratitude and forgetfulness of souls living in the world. They have time for everything, but they have no time to come to Me for graces.**

So I turn to you, you – chosen souls, will you also fail to understand the love of My Heart? Here, too, My Heart finds disappointment; I do not find complete surrender to My love. So many reservations, so much distrust, so much caution. To comfort you, let Me tell you that there are souls living in the world who love Me dearly. I dwell in their hearts with delight. But they are few. In convents too, there are souls that fill My Heart with joy. They bear My features; therefore the Heavenly Father looks upon them with special pleasure. They will be a marvel to Angels and men. Their number is very small. They are a defense for the world before the justice of the Heavenly Father and a means of obtaining mercy for the world. The love and sacrifice of these souls sustain the world in existence. The infidelity of a soul especially chosen by Me wounds My Heart most painfully. Such infidelities are swords which pierce My Heart.

Reflection: Last week the daily readings for Mass mentioned Gideon, called by God to lead his people into battle, but overly cautious in responding in spite of witnessing God’s powerful involvement and presence in their lives. Here too, St. Faustina is criticized for her excessive reservations in carrying out God’s wishes.

This makes me wonder just how much work of the Lord is being left undone because we ourselves are overly cautious, doubtful and distrusting in God’s calling, in our own abilities, and in our lack of trust in God in spite of acknowledging God’s past support and blessings upon us.

The next time a task is asked of you, esp. if it promotes the Kingdom of God, demonstrate your trust in God by responding favorably! Do not leave the work of the Lord undone because of “so many reservations, so much distrust, so much caution.”