



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

October 17, 2018

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Dear Saint Sebastian School Community,

Below are excerpts from an article by Catholic News Service, recounting Pope Francis' words to the tens of thousands gathered in St. Peter's Square earlier this week, whereby he officially declared SEVEN new Saints in the Catholic Church. Though the article is on the longer side, I encourage you to take a few moments to read and reflect upon it. Whether one is Catholic, Christian, or non-Christian, we are all hopefully striving to live our best lives - not in that which merely pleases us, but our "best lives" in that which honors and glorifies God, giving our all in service to others.

Part of our vision statement and belief system at St. Sebastian is encouraging lives lived as "intentional agents of change in the world," where Christ is our center and all stages of life are honored, respected, and cherished. As a Catholic school and as faith-based educators, we know our greatest mission is doing our part to help foster strong relationships and meaningful connections within our community, it's members, and our God, much like these new Saints.

With the many challenges we may hear within the institution of the Church - and truly among people in positions of power across the globe - let us always remember that WE define our Church... WE define our society... and here at St. Sebastian, WE define our community in how we treat one another.

Not merely an institution, "the Church" is a living body comprised of countless diverse women, men, teens, and children around the globe, spanning hundreds of centuries and leading us to the moment of today. Let us look to these selfless servants highlighted in the article below as inspiration to persevere in all that is good, just, and holy, and may we continue to look to Esther in determining how we best use "the moments for which (we) were created" (4:14).

Have a wonderful rest of the week... Go Brewers... and God bless you!

Ms. Heather Grams

VATICAN CITY — Carrying Pope Paul VI's pastoral staff and wearing the blood-stained belt of Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador, Pope Francis formally recognized them, and five others, as saints of the Catholic Church.

Thousands of pilgrims from the new saints' home countries — Italy, El Salvador, Spain and Germany — were joined by tens of thousands of others Oct. 14 in St. Peter's Square to celebrate the universal recognition of the holiness of men and women they already knew were saints ...

Each of the new saints lived lives marked by pain and criticism — including from within the church — but all of them dedicated themselves with passionate love to following Jesus and caring for the weak and the poor, Pope Francis said in his homily.

The new saints are: **Paul VI**, who led the last sessions of the Second Vatican Council and its initial implementation; **Oscar Romero**, who defended the poor, called for justice and was assassinated in 1980; **Vincenzo Romano**, an Italian priest who died in 1831; **Nazaria Ignacia March Mesa**, a Spanish nun who ministered in Mexico and Bolivia and died in 1943; **Catherine Kasper**, the 19th-century German founder of a religious order; **Francesco Spinelli**, a 19th-century priest and founder of a religious order; and **Nunzio Sulprizio**, a layman who died in Naples in 1836 at the age of 19.

"All these saints, in different contexts," put the Gospel "into practice in their lives, without lukewarmness, without calculation, with the passion to risk everything and to leave it all behind," Pope Francis said in his homily.

The pope, who has spoken often about being personally inspired by both St. Paul VI and St. Oscar Romero, prayed that every Christian would follow the new Saints' examples by shunning an attachment to money, wealth and power, and instead following Jesus and sharing his love with others.

And he prayed the new Saints would inspire the whole church to set aside "structures that are no longer adequate for proclaiming the Gospel, those weights that slow down our mission, the strings that tie us to the world."

Among those in St. Peter's Square for the Mass was Rossi Bonilla, a Salvadoran now living in Barcelona. "I'm really emotional, also because I did my Communion with Monsignor Romero when I was eight years old," she told Catholic News Service. "He was so important for the neediest; he was really with the people and kept strong when the repression started," Bonilla said. "The struggle continues for the people, and so here we are!" ...

In his homily, Pope Francis said that "Jesus is radical."

"He gives all and he asks all; he gives a love that is total and asks for an undivided heart," the pope said. "Even today he gives himself to us as the living bread; can we give him crumbs in exchange?"

Jesus, he said, "is not content with a 'percentage of love.' We cannot love him 20 or 50 or 60 percent. It is either all or nothing" because "our heart is like a magnet — it lets itself be attracted by love, but it can cling to one master only and it must choose: either it will love God or it will love the world's treasure; either it will live for love or it will live for itself."

"A leap forward in love," he said, is what would enable individual Christians and the whole church to escape "complacency and self-indulgence."

Without passionate love, he said, "we find joy in some fleeting pleasure, we close ourselves off in useless gossip, we settle into the monotony of a Christian life without momentum where a little narcissism covers over the sadness of remaining unfulfilled."

The day's Gospel reading recounted the story of the rich young man who said he followed all the commandments and precepts of Jewish law, but he asks Jesus what more he must do to have eternal life.

"Jesus' answer catches him off guard," the pope said. "The Lord looks upon him and loves him. Jesus changes the perspective from commandments observed in order to obtain a reward, to a free and total love."

In effect, he said, Jesus is telling the young man that not doing evil is not enough, nor is it enough to give a little charity or say a few prayers. Following Jesus means giving him absolute first place in one's life. "He asks you to leave behind what weighs down your heart, to empty yourself of goods in order to make room for him, the only good."

"Do we content ourselves with a few commandments or do we follow Jesus as lovers, really prepared to leave behind something for him?" the pope asked people gathered ...

"A heart unburdened by possessions, that freely loves the Lord, always spreads joy, that joy for which there is so much need today," Pope Francis said. "Today Jesus invites us to return to the source of joy, which is the encounter with him, the courageous choice to risk everything to follow him, the satisfaction of leaving something behind in order to embrace his way."

- Wooden, Cindy. "Pope Francis canonizes seven new saints." *Catholic News Service*. October 14, 2018.

COFFEE WITH THE PRINCIPAL - Ms. Grams would like to extend an invitation to all new families for coffee (tea, hot chocolate, or water!) as she hears about your experience at St. Sebastian School since joining our community. She welcomes any feedback or questions helpful to follow up on. There will also be student age-relevant topics to dialogue on. The coffee sessions will be offered on the follow dates in the faculty lounge next to the office:

K4 / K5: Tuesday, October 30th (anytime between 7:30-8:15am)

1st - 8th: Friday, November 2nd (anytime between 7:30-8:15am)

Please RSVP if you have a moment with administrative assistant, Mrs. Jen Sveda, at jsveda@saintsebs.org so we can appropriately plan for materials (and coffee!), or just show up if that is best. If these times do not work for you and you would like to check in, please let Ms. Sveda know that as well in your email. This is not mandatory, but rather an opportunity to connect!

REMEMBERING DARLENE TULLY – Darlene worked at St. Sebastian School as both a teacher and an administrator from August 1990 to June of 2009. She moved and continued her career in Illinois. Unfortunately, she also battled cancer. She recently returned to Milwaukee and passed away while in hospice care.

Darlene was a friend and advisor to many St. Sebastian families. All are invited to share memories and support with her husband, Bob Kroll. Please join him in the multi-purpose room after the 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday, October 21st.

YAC - Is looking for basketball coaches for 5th and 7th grade girls. We are also looking for a volunteer to be the basketball uniform coordinator. Please contact Michael Lehmann at 414-745-9987 or email at mlehmann2@wi.rr.com

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES – Halloween festivities will take place on the afternoon of Friday, October 26th. Students may bring a costume to change into after lunch. Please remember that violent costumes or weapons are not allowed. If a student brings an unsuitable costume, they will not be allowed to wear it. A costume parade will take place outdoors at 2:00, weather permitting. If the weather does not cooperate, it will be held in the school hallways. Parents and guests are welcome.

HOME & SCHOOL NEWS - Catholic schools walk is here! Help represent our awesome school on Saturday, October 20th. Warm-up for the 2 mile walk [starts at 9:40](#), walk [starts at 10:00](#). Plan on meeting at Mount Mary. Wear your Sebs spirit wear (or red)! Look for our school flag near the stage, pick up your Sebs sun glasses (-yes, because our futures are so bright!!!!☺), red beads and get ready to have some fun! Hope to see you there!!

For more info on the walk please visit catholicschoolswalk.org website and search St. Sebastian.

Calling all box tops clippers-Box tops for education deadline is fast approaching! Please submit all box tops ASAP. The student that turns in the most box tops before Friday, October 26th wins a prize!!! Please remember box tops can not be expired or torn (must be able to see the expiration date and logo to count). Sheets for fun and easy submission can be found at btfe.com. Envelopes and plastic baggies work too, just remember to put your name on them! Happy clipping!! May the best clipper win!

Magazine (and novelty gift) sale is back, (just a little later) to help support our school! Magazine sale: Kick-off [on Nov. 5](#) with a turn-in date of [Nov. 19](#).

New this year is the Kringle sale, just in time for holiday parties!! Kringle Sale: Kick-off is also [Nov. 5](#) with a turn-in date of [Nov. 28](#) and pick-up date of [Dec. 15](#) from the Church Hall.

Rewards: Sell 5 items (5 magazine items, 5 Kringles or combination of both fundraisers (1 magazine, 4 Kringles)) and receive a dress down pass. Sell 10 items and join the root beer float party.

Buy out option will still be available. More information to come.

HOME & SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING - September meeting minutes are attached. The next H&S committee meeting is [next Wednesday, Oct. 24th](#) in the teacher's lounge [starting at 5:30pm](#). All parents are welcome to attend.

ROSIE READER - Congratulations to the following students for his progress in the Rosie Reader program:

Completing the letter "R" in reading:

Grade : K4 - Levi Winn, Delilah Hatten and Alithia Rodriguez

K5 - Maren Terry

Completing the letter "E" in reading:

Grade: K5 - Kameran Sanders

Congratulations on your progress. Keep reading!!

HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS – As the weather gets colder, please remember to wear only uniform approved sweaters and sweatshirts. There are 2 red-colored ones on the website as 2 new options. Refer to the policy for further information.

UNIFORMS TO SHARE IN TIP-TOP SHAPE

Emily Braun, member of MGC Girl Scout Troop #1034, and member of the DSHA Class of 2019, has completed her Girl Scout Gold Award project. Emily's project, which involved more than 100 hours of research, planning, and construction, will benefit disabled students attending St. Coletta Day School. Emily has prepared an instructional booklet, which illustrates how to fold and sort clothing. She also has retrofitted wooden cabinets, so that they can serve as storage and display for folded clothing.

Additionally, the St. Coletta Transition Students were responsible for re-organizing all of the shared uniform items which found a new home in the storage unit. This should make it much easier for anyone to find uniform items that they need.

This uniform clothing is to share. You may donate your clean, used, uniform clothing at anytime. In the same respect, you may take any uniform clothing you may need at anytime. Thanks to everyone involved with this project. It is appreciated very much!

BOOK FAIR THANK YOU! - A HUGE thank you to all the families that supported the school library with purchases at the book fair. There are so many new books in the library thanks to your generosity! A big THANK YOU to Patty Higgins and Rainbow Booksellers for their tireless work and energy in sponsoring the book fair. If you didn't get a chance to stop in the book fair, the wish-list your child(ren) filled out is still available now through Christmas at Rainbow Booksellers book store (located at 5704 W. Vliet St.) Books make great Christmas gifts!

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! - Do you have a few hours a week to help in the school library? Looking for a consistent library volunteer on these days and times: **Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30** and/or **Fridays from 8:00-10:00.**

Training provided for tasks including: assisting with helping students check-out books, shelving returned books and helping process new books for students! Sound like fun?! Please reply to Stacey Rebholz at srebholz@saintsebs.org if you can commit to these days and times, thank you!