

Companions on the Journey

September 29, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

Almost twenty years ago one of our parishioners sent in to me what you see below entitled the Bridge Builder. I was grateful for it then and I believe it timely right now. We are soon to embark on a Stewardship Campaign for increased financial support of Saint Anthony's. In addition, we offer a parish wide retreat this weekend and then in two week's time we offer a Friday evening Retreat for our young people. Please read and reflect.

The Bridge Builder

An old man going along a lone highway came, at the evening cold and gray, to a chasm vast and deep and wide. The old man crossed in the twilight dim. The sullen stream held no fear for him; but he turned when safe on the other side and built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near, "You are wasting your strength with building here; your journey will end with the ending day. You never again will pass this way. You've crossed the chasm deep and wide. Why build this bridge at evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head. "Good friend, in the path I have come," he said, "there followed after me today a youth whose feet must pass this way. This chasm that has been naught to me to that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be. He too, must cross in twilight dim. Good friend, I am building this bridge—for him!"

Isn't it true that so much of what we do is for those who come after us? Isn't it true that so much of what we have is used for those who come after us? Isn't it true that so much of what we have here at Saint Anthony's is because of those who went before us? That what we are able to use, enjoy, celebrate is because of the sacrifices of so many of those who went before us?

This is not simply true in aspects of our faith life. It is true in so many aspects of our lives and that goes for the children and young people of our area in this time. It is what each generation does. We build for ourselves but also for those who will come after us. We do this because we strive to enshrine and hand on the truths that we have found dear and which we treasure. For us Catholics, this is especially true in terms of handing on our faith. And so, we seek to create a place for those who are the next generations of Catholics to be able to come to learn about their God and be formed in the beauty and truth of our Catholic faith in a truly safe and hospitable environment. I thank you for your support of the overall design of our parish project and your support of those who will be the next generations of parishioners. In any way you can please choose to support our increased Stewardship request—with your prayers in your home and at church, with your dollars in the Sunday collection and on the major Feast Days of the Year, and with your involvement by donating your time to be active in some dimension of parish life. Let us remember to look back in appreciation but to look ahead with hope.

In the Peace of Christ,

Msgr. McHenry