

Column060621

Companions on the Journey

June 6, 2021

Dear Friends,

This Sunday is an important day here at Saint Anthony's. At the 10:30 Sunday Mass, Hale (Sunny Peffall, Larry Pijanowski and His daughter Allie will make their profession of Faith as Catholics. After that they will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from me as Pastor. Joining them will be Courtney Meehan who will likewise be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. The three new members of the Catholic faith will receive their First Holy Communion at the Communion of the Mass. Please congratulate them all and welcome them into our parish community of believers. They are all most welcome as are their family members who gather with them and around them today.

In addition, at the Spanish Mass at 4pm this Sunday we will have three members of our Hispanic community receive the Sacrament of Confirmation also. They are: Veronica Bartolome Martinez, Araceli Bartolome Martinez, Gerardo Ulises Mestizo. So there will be three new members and seven new Confirmandi. That is a happy day in any pastor's life and in any parish's life. Please know that your living out of your Catholic faith never goes unnoticed. It has its impact just as the good example and sacrifices which others make for their family and friends and often for people whom they do not know—all of that makes such a big difference in people's lives.

My friends, think of someone from your past who really made a difference in your life, someone who treated you in a truly hospitable fashion, or a teacher who inspired you to do and be your best. Perhaps it is your own mom or dad who was always there for you or took the time to listen and share their good counsel with you. All of that is the work of the Holy Spirit. None of that is ever lost. When I was a lad the Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary taught me at Saint David parish in Willow Grove and then at Saint Jon of the Cross parish in Roslyn. They taught me many things but one that I will never forget was the concept of a spiritual treasury.

What did they mean by a spiritual treasury? As the Sisters explained it to us, every good deed we do, every kind thought we have, every helping hand we reach out to another, every prayer we pray—none of these things is ever lost. The spiritual effect or impact is stored in a heavenly spiritual treasure-house or treasury. All the good, all the prayers are amassed in this spiritual treasury. It is always growing larger because more and more participate in it every day. It is never depleted although we often are depleted.

One of the great things about the spiritual treasury. It is available to anyone and everyone who desires to reach into it at times. Every single person on earth can ask to share in these spiritual resources. There will never be day when those spiritual graces stored in the kingdom of God will be unavailable to us. Whatever our need. Whatever we need. We can approach God and ask for a share in this spiritual treasury. The graces are already there in abundance. We can go to them all the time. We subtract from them not at all. As a matter of fact because there is this spirit of togetherness precisely in and through the Holy Spirit of the Living God. Call down God's blessing on those new to the faith and those being confirmed. Go to the Treasure house and ask the Lord to bestow his abundant blessings on all who are gathered here.

**In the Peace of Christ,
Msgr. McHenry**