

## Fr. Jason's Wishful Thinking

Dear Friends:

It has been a few weeks since I last wrote in the bulletin and wanted to let you know what has been going on visibly as well as behind the scenes. The most important update is news that my mother, Yvonne, has moved into the St. Joseph rectory as of July 23rd. She completed rehabilitation in Gonzales and after seven weeks of living in a hospital and skilled nursing facility, she was happy to have some freedom and less structure in her day. However, she has dialysis three days a week and a few things that have been irritating her, such as broken and loose teeth (resolved this past Tuesday), some fingers with gangrene (we're at the emergency room as I write this), and a medical port in her neck which needs to be moved). That procedure is scheduled on August 8th. Otherwise, Mom has adapted well to her surroundings and we are taking one day at a time with fixing things. She gets around with her walker and welcomes company if she is not in Gonzales at dialysis.

The second update is that we just refinished the main entrance doors at St. Joseph Church. Mr. Joe Bivona completed this project for us... and we decided on a lighter varnish so the doors would be more visible.

The third update is that I thoroughly enjoyed Catholic Daughters National Training Days in Arizona with the LA State Officers/Court. I learned a lot and I am anxious to meet with our two courts and share some new ideas that will not involve fundraising in order to make Circles of Care projects happen.

The fourth update involves our construction projects. Mr. Milton Clouatre brought our bell tower blueprints to the State Fire Marshal's office this week for approval. Richard Picou and Milton Clouatre have been very good collaborators as we move forward with this project. Deacon Leon and I are trying to find a few hours to pick up four windows that have arrived for the Head of Island chapel. We have two more windows ordered and paid for. So we now have all the windows paid for, as well as the stained glass, icons, chandeliers, statues, and some beautiful Stations of the Cross that Wally Daigle finished a few weeks ago. We have the approval of the Liturgy, Art, and Music Board to move forward, so now we go to the Building Review Board. And finally, the rectory... well... I'm left scratching my head and growing in patience on that project. I completed a projected budget and submitted it earlier this week per the Diocese's request. They have the architectural and engineering plans that they requested be drawn up and submitted. So now, I guess that we wait. The contractor is ready, the permit from Livingston Parish is granted, but we're waiting.

My final update this week involves our church-sponsored pilgrimage to Eucharistic miracle sites of Italy coming up September 30-October 11. We have 29 folks registered for the awesome trip and I would love to get one more person to make 30! There is still time to register, and I will owe you a very nice steak dinner, since you will have helped me to travel and host the trip for a highly discounted rate! Otherwise, I will be paying full price like everyone else. If you know someone who would like to travel to Italy, let me know! I'm asking St. Anthony to help me find my number 30!

As I conclude this week's update, I want to thank our outstanding Fireworks Committee, and everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School in both parishes, and our Parish School Religion teachers who are volunteering their time this year to help our youth grow in faith. The Catholic Daughters did a marvelous job with the First Responders Appreciation Dinner on Thursday. Thank you, ladies! I have to thank Mr. Tim Gomez for pressure washing the old church on July 5th; and Mr. Buck Fontenot, Deacon Jimmy and his grandsons for helping to clear the St. Stephen parking lot as we prepare for some concrete!

Have a good and grace-filled week!

Fr. Jason ☺