

Dear Parishioners,

Each of us is our brother or sister's keeper. Today we hear God calling us to be responsible for each other. No one should be left on their own to fail; we are called to pick each other up, to help each other out. This Labor Day weekend, when we honor all those who work to do the things that contribute to society, whether in a factory, on a farm, in an office, at home, or wherever it may be, let us resolve to work together in building the kingdom of God.

For the third consecutive year, St. Bernardine would like to host **RCIA** (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), in conjunction with St. Luke parish. We are asking if anyone is interested or knows of someone who is interested in joining the Catholic Church. Interested candidates would participate in weekly classes which will probably be held virtually due to Covid 19. A day/night of the week to meet would be determined.

RCIA is for any adult, 18 years or older and out of high school, who would like to be baptized in the Catholic church or become a Catholic after having been baptized in another Christian tradition. It is also for those baptized Catholic adults needing to complete the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.

We are also looking for **parish sponsors** who would walk with the candidates on their faith journey throughout the year. If you are longing to get in touch with your Catholic roots, this might be a ministry for you.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining RCIA, either as a candidate or a sponsor, please contact the St. Bernardine office at (708) 366-0839 and leave a message. The decision to host RCIA again this year will depend on the response.

At the request of Pope Francis, the 2020 Pontifical Good Friday Collection will be taken next weekend, September 13, 2020. Traditionally, the Good Friday Collection supports Christians living in the Land of Jesus. Due to the pandemic caused by the Corona virus this year, it was not possible to have a liturgy on Good Friday, and because of that, Pope Francis has requested that we share his concern and move forward with this collection. Some of you may have already contributed to this collection; however, if you did not and want to support Christians in the Holy Land, you will have the opportunity next Sunday. Special envelopes will be set out in the vestibule, and you can place your offering in the collection box when exiting the church.

Tomorrow on Labor Day mass will be in the church at 9:00 a.m. On this Labor Day, let us thank the Lord for the talents and work he has given us to do. Let us pray that we may find joy and satisfaction in our work, realizing that we are co-creators with God and stewards of His creation. In addition, let us pray for those less fortunate, that they may find work that will sustain their families, nurture their children and secure their future.

Fr. Stan