

Thoughts from the Rectory ...

Dear friends of St. John the Evangelist,

This weekend we joyfully welcome our diocesan ordinary, Most Rev. William Byrne, Bishop of Springfield. Bishop Byrne was named to the vacant see by Pope Francis in October with his episcopal consecration and installation taking place in December. Over the past several months he has been visiting all corners of our diocese and joining parishes in prayer with great affection and zeal. Here at St. John's we have been honored twice to welcome Bishop Byrne, first for the blessing of our Pre-School ministry as well as the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation in April. Thank you for joining us, your excellency!

As we continue to give thanks to God for the vitality and life of our parish, we are especially grateful for the enthusiasm and energy of our "In the Beginning" Pre-School! With Bishop Byrne's blessing, the great efforts of our teachers and volunteers, and the eager responsiveness of many parents and families, the endeavor is growing and bearing fruit. Recently moving into our permanent classrooms, after several months in the gym, the children are enjoying special summer programs, with our new teacher Mrs. Isabel Dunn, and volunteers including Mrs. Gena Hollwedel.

Over the coming weeks you are invited to an Open House, on days that fit your schedule, so to see the good work that is being done. Your interest and support of this great project of the parish is vital to its continued success and the hope for a strong foundation and lasting future. Thank you for your sharing the good news and spreading the good word throughout our Agawam community and beyond!

Finally, I would like to call to your attention some of the youth ministry activities taking

place in our parish and diocese. Most especially the *Quo Vadis* Young Men's Retreat will be a most worthwhile opportunity for those between the ages of 14 to 19. Consider inviting your sons or grandsons to sign up! Also, Karol Lieberbach's witness about Catholic mission work on our college campuses is another sign of engagement of our faith life in action.

Let us all continue to pray and work for the success of efforts near and far to make Christ known to a wanting world!

St. John the Evangelist, pray for us!

Fr. Pierz