

Thoughts from the Rectory ...

Dear friends of St. John the Evangelist,

This weekend I am at the Steubenville East Catholic Youth Conference right here in Springfield! This three-day event is a phenomenal opportunity for the high school age men and women of our diocese and local parishes as we work to build up our youth ministries and outreach to the young.

I recall the few similar events I've attended such as NCYC in Indianapolis and the Steubenville East Conference several years ago in Attleboro. Certainly I am reminded of World Youth Day 2016 when a large contingent from western Massachusetts went on pilgrimage in Poland and greeted Pope Francis with a million other young people in Kraków. Those youth and young adults are today the husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, seminarians and priests, starting out as the future generations. So very encouraged!

In a real way, we are invited, young and old, clergy and lay, each and every one of us, to find our life hidden with Christ in God. The words of St. Paul today are addressed to all people to think of what is above, not of what is on earth. Most especially for our young, we must labor and work, not for the things that pass away, treasures that rot and whittle, but for that which eternally endures: love, joy, peace, gentleness, faith, and goodness. Strive for the higher things!

As I celebrate my final Sunday Masses August 6 and 7, know that I have been blessed to pursue these higher things with you. An abundance of graces has come to me throughout these years here in Agawam.

In His generosity the Lord has done many good things and I am always grateful for your share in that mission. Let us not grow slack in the work ever before us. Let us not forfeit our heavenly inheritance or our duty towards our sons and daughters. Think of what is above! Be not afraid!

St. John the Evangelist, pray for us!

Fr. Pierz