



## *Pastor's Column*

### *Proposal ~ Three New Parish Guilds October 15, 2017*

Last weekend, the parish Pastoral Council coordinated and hosted the Guild/Ministry Fair, and it was quite an event after each of the Masses with a pretty good turnout. Thank you all for coming!

I myself had a display where I was advertising the possibility of starting up three new Guilds for the parish (and Peter and Mary helped staff my table when I myself was not able to be there). I had very few people sign up, and so I take this opportunity to explain what I hope to accomplish with these three new Guilds, and I invite anyone who is interested and who may have additional questions to contact me at the parish office.

The first new Guild: St. Elizabeth of Hungary. This saint was a queen who extended very gracious hospitality to all varieties of people in her and her husband's kingdom. This Guild would be focused, therefore, on caring for the body and the soul of parish guests. I know that we already have a hospitality Guild, and that Guild's primary focus has been on funerals and funeral receptions, which of course is a very important service that our parish provides. With this new Guild, there is an opportunity for expanded hospitality: a ready-made group of parishioners who can help provide potluck items for various parish events, such as our Wednesday night Family Faith Formation gatherings; food items such as sweet breads and soups prepared and frozen for delivery to our homebound parishioners; greeting cards, prayer cards, and even Mass cards sent to our homebound parishioners at various times throughout the year; and other similar outreach activities. In this manner, this Guild will help the parish fulfill several Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, as Pope Francis has been begging Christians to do, including Feeding the Hungry, Visiting the Stranger, and Praying for the Living. Again, for more information regarding this St. Elizabeth of Hungary Guild, please contact me.

The second new Guild: a Marian Rosary Guild. I'm still incredibly inspired by the explosion of Catholic faith that took place at this summer's Eucharistic Family Rosary Crusade at Avista Stadium. The utter importance of the family Rosary, I am convinced, simply cannot be over-emphasized. I hope to form a Marian Rosary Guild with parishioners who will be committed to praying the Rosary each day, either at home individually and/or with family or with other Guild members in our Adoration Chapel here at the parish. In addition, the Marian Rosary Guild will help me promote Marian devotion with the help of devotional books, informational pamphlets, prayer cards, and the like.

The third new Guild: a Guild aimed specifically at coordinating the efforts of St. Peter parish at engaging in social outreach activities. We are already doing so much to help those in need...but I just have no idea what all we are doing, or when, or why, or for whom, or which parishioners are doing it all. This Guild would be the central point of contact for all social outreach activity – not to take away whatever parishioners are already doing, but more to help me and all the parish be kept fully informed about all of the good work that we are doing. Collection drives for blankets, clothes, coats, etc.; rounding up a team of parishioner volunteers to help serve at House of Charity or St. Margaret Shelter; yardwork and housework assistance for our homebound or elderly parishioners; Bite2Go with Lincoln Heights Elementary; and so on.

Now, it is my hope that this third new Guild can actually be the primary mission of our St. Peter parish Knights of Columbus Council; I am in the midst right now of working with members of our Knights Council to revamp our Council and get us up and running again. To that end, therefore, I invite all men of the parish, ages 18 and older, to consider speaking with me about the Knights of Columbus.

Thank you all for your consideration regarding my proposal for three new parish Guilds. If you have any questions or input for me, then again, please contact me at the parish office.

*~ Fr. Lewis*