

After the Heart of Jesus ...

*While Jesus was at table in Matthew's house,
many tax collectors and sinners came
and sat with Jesus and his disciples.
The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples,
"Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"
He heard this and said,
"Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.
Go and learn the meaning of the words,
'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'
I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."*



Like many Gospel passages, this one from Sunday's Gospel both comforts and confronts. Jesus' words "I did not come to call the righteous but sinners," comfort us in times when we are aware of our imperfections, sicknesses, weaknesses, and sinfulness. We hear of Jesus' desire to be with us, to strengthen us, and to forgive us. Some stayed away from Jesus because they felt unworthy to be with him.

However, Jesus' words "I did not come to call the righteous but sinners" confront and challenge us in those times of self-righteousness, when we think ourselves better than others or more holy than the rest. The Pharisees were known for their hypocrisy and self-righteousness. So many of them missed out on a real relationship with Jesus because they couldn't admit their need for Jesus.

Unfortunately there still remain many who miss out on a friendship with Christ because they either cannot admit their need for him or they cannot believe that he would want to be with them. We need to be agents of Lord offering both comfort and challenge in the world we live, so that all will know that He came not to call the righteous but sinners.

Congratulations to **Father Matthew Pratscher** who was ordained a priest this Saturday, June 7, at the Cathedral of St. Raymond, in Joliet. Father Matt will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Walter next Saturday, June 14, at 5:00 PM. Congratulations, also, to **Father Phil Horrigan** who celebrated his 40th Anniversary of Priesthood Ordination on June 1. Parishioners are invited to join him for a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Walter on Saturday, June 21, at 5:00 PM. Receptions in the narthex will follow both Masses of Thanksgiving.

This week, the Faith Network begins its new ministry in the Narthex. The Faith Network Desk will be staffed at all Masses to help parishioners find ways to deepen their understanding of faith and put their faith into action through ministries and outreach. Stop by the table to receive more information about opportunities to serve or for friendly advice about parish life and what's happening. I am grateful for the group of parishioners who are making extra efforts to get this important ministry off the ground. If you would be interested in helping to staff the Faith Network Desk in the future, please inquire with the parishioner at the desk after any weekend Mass.

The following groups are currently looking for volunteers or new members: the Stewardship Committee, Parish Web-site Team, Parish Pictorial Director, and the Faith Network. Please see articles in this week's bulletin, visit the Faith Network Desk, or call the parish office for more details.



The parish is now using Constant Contact as a way of keeping parishioners in touch electronically via e-mails and electronic newsletters. Parishioners can join the e-mail list by using the link on the home page of the parish website. Besides the general mailing list, people can opt in for information for a number of interests or groups including youth ministry, seasoned adult ministry, adult faith formation, and peace and justice. Initially we plan on sending a monthly newsletter to the general population and occasional newsletters and notices to various interest or ministry groups. Please sign up today!

As we put our faith into action, may we know that we live ...

After the Heart of Jesus!

Father John