

Soggy Success

Another Lakeside Family Festival has come and gone and this was a particularly challenging one given the cool and wet spring we have had. Rain affected us at both ends of the long weekend and posed many challenges to our volunteers, making the weekend that much more of a sacrifice to all who stepped-up to lend a hand.

As pastor, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all who lent a hand to this crucially important event. While we don't yet have final numbers in, with respect to financial earnings, the indications are that we did very well in that regard. This will go a long way with respect to the first phase of the Neumann Hall renovation which, I hope, will begin very soon, (see "Updates" below).

I wish to single out John Barrella and Jamie Schell for their efforts to coordinate the various functions of the festival in the rolls of Chairman and Co-Chairman. I am deeply grateful to them for accepting these rolls which can be very trying on the patience and the nerves. In the context of having young children, careers and very busy lives, I must acknowledge the very generous sacrifice of these two men. We are all indebted to them for their service.



I must also mention the heroic efforts to set-up and tear down the booths out on the soggy/muddy fields. Thanks to Margaret French for her oversight and the many folks to gave their Saturdays and Memorial Day to accomplish this task. Once again, it was especially challenging to do all of this work in the lousy weather we have experienced.

Finally, all of the booth chairpersons must be acknowledged along with their volunteers who braved the onslaught of festival goers, the grease and the grime of the booths, the long hours on their feet, and all of the other challenges which went with their tasks. In the background we also had the counting crew, the cleaning crew, the parking crew,

medical and the functions of the Steering Committee. Many thanks to all of them for their good efforts.

Please forgive me if I've missed anyone in this "thank you note." It is so gratifying to have the response we got to the effort this year. Hopefully we can sustain this very fruitful fundraiser and social event for our community.

Fr. Greg

Updates

The Hall Project

In the wake of the latest festival result, I think you should know that we are working hard behind the scenes to get things moving on the parish hall projects. Our Parish Finance Council met with the Diocesan Chancellor to try and iron out difficulties between the parish and the diocese. I am optimistic that we will be given a green light to begin some work which is desperately needed on the hall. I hope to provide a clearer idea by the middle of this month. At that time we will share the existing proposal with the parish. The hope is to significantly upgrade the facility to handle more activities in better comfort and with better efficiencies. Our primary hold-up to this point has been a diocesan financial crisis which, now, seems to be abating.

Evangelization

Currently we have two active Parish Cell Evangelization Groups. They represent the very small "seed" that we hope will grow into a substantial movement which will help us learn what "intentional discipleship" means and how to "evangelize" through our everyday relationships.