



From the Pastor's Desk

August 17, 2014

The summer is starting to wane. The Fourth of July is long past, and the "Back-To-School" sales have begun to appear in the Sunday papers. Soon, the annual migration of young adults to college and universities will begin.

During the days to come, the annual ritual of leaving and separation will take place with mixed emotions on behalf of both parent and young adult children. Our parents look at the empty (now clean) room and wonder if their child will be all right. The new college students leave with feelings of wonder, anticipation and maybe a little fear. The returning students leave with mixed feelings that run from dread to excitement about the coming year.

As our students prepare to depart, the Church wants them to know that the faith community goes with them. Throughout our colleges and universities, the Catholic faith community is present through the Catholic Campus Ministry. In a variety of ways, Catholic Campus Ministry at institutions of higher education provides an opportunity for students to explore their relationship with God, own their involvement with the Church, and integrate their faith with the study and work of their lives. Today is being designated Campus Ministry Sunday to help us as a faith community remember to pray for our college students and assure them of our support. We would also like to inform all our college students of the opportunities to continue to grow in faith and be supported by the Catholic Campus Ministry (Newman Center) associated with their college or university. Be sure to ask at your college or university where it's located.

We, at St. Monica, would like our college bound young adults to know you are still a part of our family. You will always be welcome here. We would also be happy to send you a copy of the St. Monica bulletin (at no cost) if you would like us to keep in contact with you. If you are interested, send your (or your college student's) name and complete school address to the Parish Office. The bulletin, along with other information, is also available on our website at: www.stmonicachicago.com.

As our students prepare to leave us, let us entrust them to the hands of the Lord. We pray that God will keep them safe, that Holy Wisdom will labor at their side, and when it is time to rest and celebrate they will return to us safely.

"A Blessing Prayer for College Students"

Gracious God, your Spirit of Wisdom fills the earth and teaches your ways.

Look upon our college bound students. Let them enjoy their learning and take delight in new discoveries. Help them persevere in their studies and give them a desire to learn all things well. Guide them in their decisions and strengthen their resolve.

Stir in them the fullness of life that you have given them and inspire them in service of your people. Protect them in their journeys and remind them of their home.

We ask this blessing, through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen

Fr. Fred Tomzick

