

Father's Notes

November 3, 2024

Occasionally I'm reminded of how much need and desire for more there is in our parishes. In recent weeks I've had conversations with parishioners, wishing we could have this event, that event, this program, that program, etc.

I've heard more than one request for a healing Mass. I've received the request to have young missionaries serve in our parishes to help nurture the faith of our Hispanic youth. I've heard the request to have a Parish Mission (meaning we have a speaker come for a series of days to give talks on the spiritual life to parishioners). I've received requests to have more programs in English for adults and more programs in Spanish for our youth and young adults.

I honestly see this all as a good thing, and I support these desires for more. Again, I believe it a good thing, because it indicates that there is a living faith and a desire to engage deeper. I will do my part to help explore these offerings and how we can provide them, but it also means that we need your help. More to come on any of these things, but in the meantime, please pray about how you can help.

Perhaps you can work with me and do some of the exploration and make the necessary calls to those who would come and provide a healing Mass or be a speaker. Perhaps you could work with me and Fr. Ben to help communicate and facilitate young adult activities. Perhaps you could work with me and explore possible options for a Parish Mission speaker. These are great things, and I want to help respond to these beautiful desires, so let's work on this together.

On a different note, Fr. Ben and I mentioned our parishes' subscription to Formed.org. It's an online Catholic resource that we've provided for you to help cultivate the domestic church (your home) and also which we can use for parish programming. It offers programming for children and adults, in Spanish and in English. It includes e-books, movies, programs about the saints, audio lectures, programs for teaching the faith, etc. Again, it's paid for out of St. Thomas' and St. Philomena's respective budgets, so that you (and your friends) can access it all for free.

To access it go to www.formed.org. At the top of the web page, where it says: "Find your parish subscription", enter either St. Thomas or St. Philomena. You'll then see our listing—click on it. It will ask for your email and name, and then you're in and you can begin exploring. You can also download the app on your phone or tablet. Also, please note, there's a tab (or drop-menu) at the top of the main page that says "ESPAÑOL".



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