



Pentecost Sunday
May 15, 2016



Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak
760-758-4100 x100
michaelr@stmoside.org

A "Shout-out" for Young People!

Last Sunday Bishop McElroy was with us to lead us in the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation as a number of our young Parishioners received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

As I watched him impart the Holy Spirit: "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit," I was reminded of how proud I am of our teens.

In July, I will begin my 14th year as Pastor of St. Thomas More Parish, and over the years I have been constantly amazed by our teens.

They are bright, warm, friendly, curious, oftentimes very gentle, and desirous of being involved in the life of the Parish.

When you come to Mass on the weekend, I am sure you have noticed the number of youth involved in the Parish: Sacristans, Altar Servers, Hospitality Ministers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Readers.

What a blessing as we see so many young people being integrated into the life of the Parish!

With Matt Franklin, our Youth Advocate, leading the way as we rebuild our Youth Ministry Program, our present is bright and our future is even brighter.

With last week's Confirmation and my reflection on the youth of our Parish, I thought about two other recent events involving young people.

On April 29, the Caterer and his staff at our Gala gave us very delicious food, and I was surprised to see how young the Caterer was as was his entire staff of waitpersons.

They were very competent, friendly, courteous, and professional. I was impressed!

And this past week, as many of you know, I moved to a new home that may become our permanent rectory. I hired "Meathead Movers" for the furniture. I had used them the last time we made a change in rectories.

"Meathead Movers" are college students who move furniture to work their way through college. Again, these young movers were professional, courteous, friendly, and hard-working. I was impressed!

So often our young people get a really bad rap. So often we only hear the negatives.

Today I want to give a "shout-out" to our young people. They need our support, and they need to be recognized for the good people they are.

They have a difficult life today, with so many choices and options that fill their world through social media. They have so much they need to muck through every day. Yet they do, they survive, and they are good and desirous of doing the right thing, and of becoming better human beings trying to make us elders proud of them.

So today, let's give a "Shout-out" to young people! They deserve it! They need it!

Fr. Mike