



Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church  
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May 20, 2017

Dear Parishioners,

At the 11:00 a.m. Mass this weekend, we will recognize Debbie Cronin and Elaine Gootee, who received from Archbishop Gregory Aymond the Medallion of the Order of St. Louis at a ceremony at St. Joseph Church on Sunday, May 7. This Medallion is presented to women and men from parishes throughout the Archdiocese for their outstanding service to their parishes.

Debbie and her husband, Tom, do not reside in our territorial parish, but have been registered parishioners since Katrina. Their two children attended St. Dominic School, which temporarily relocated to our campus after Katrina, and when it came time for her daughter Marian, to marry, St. Dominic Church was still not restored or in service. And so, they moved the wedding here to Holy Rosary. When she and her husband found out how small our parish was they decided that they would share their time and talents here. She joined FIAT and became an active member. She has taken part in all of the activities of FIAT and is part of the fantastic Fish Fry Kitchen Crew. When a new leader was needed for the Grounds Committee of FIAT, she, along with Anita McCrossen (one of last year's St. Louis Medallion honorees) volunteered for that service. The Grounds Committee takes care of all of the flower beds around the church and behind the priest's residence, planning the seasonal flowers, planting and maintaining them. In order to cover the expense of the gardens, Debbie leads the twice-a-year bake sales after Mass. When Fr. David Robicheaux wanted to build the Meditation Garden, Debbie assisted with finding a landscaper and has overseen the installation and blessing of the Marian statues in the garden. Debbie has also been serving these past years as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

Elaine and her family lived here in Holy Rosary parish when she was young and she attended our parish school for nine years. She and her husband, Pat, were married here in our church and their first child (first of five) attended our school. They then moved to St. Dominic Parish, but carried a love for Holy Rosary throughout. When they lost their home in Katrina and were looking for a new place to live, because of that love, they moved back into Holy Rosary Parish, and Elaine jumped in with both feet. She had served as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at St. Dominic and so transferred that delegation to our parish. She still serves in this ministry on weekdays and weekends. She has been, like Debbie, part of the Fish Fry Kitchen Crew for nine years – since those dinners began -- and helps

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*MISSION STATEMENT*

*“Our Lady of the Rosary Parish is a strong, vibrant community of faith serving God with our time, talents, and treasure. By following the teachings of Jesus Christ and through the guidance of Our Blessed Mother Mary, we foster the spiritual growth of our Parish family and provide charitable service to the surrounding community.”*

lead the preparations for and serving at our annual parish Thanksgiving Dinner. She has been a member of FIAT since she moved back into the parish and, for the past year, has been serving as President of FIAT. Elaine is also a member of our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society. When our parish celebrated our Centennial Year, she served as a Chairperson in that event. During this time of my recuperation, she has also coordinated other parishioners who, along with her, generously have prepared meals for me these past weeks. That's not what won her the Medallion, but it does merit my deep gratitude!

On your behalf, I thank these two faithful parishioners for their love for and dedication to your parish. I join you in congratulating them on their well-deserved honor. I hope that their example will inspire others to such generous and committed service to our parish family.

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On Saturday, May 27, our parishioner Elizabeth Rizzo will take vows as a Consecrated Virgin Living in the World. Archbishop Gregory Aymond will be in our parish to receive Elizabeth's vows at a special Mass that day. Elizabeth and her parents provided this explanation of that ritual and life in the invitation sent to guests:

*"What is this state of Consecrated Virginity to which Elizabeth will enter on May 27, 2017?"*

*The Consecration of a virgin is one of the oldest sacramentals in the Church dating back to apostolic times. One of the fruits of Vatican II was the restoration of this profound blessing upon virgins "living in the world" as opposed to other celibate women living in religious communities. The promulgation of this restored Rite took place on May 31, 1970, and is codified in Canon 604 of the Code of Canon Law. Today there are approximately 4,000 consecrated virgins throughout the world.*

*The consecrated virgin lives in full communion with the Church through her spiritual bond with her Bishop, the representative of Jesus Christ in her diocese. She shares in the concerns of her diocese through on going communication and prayer. She, like those in religious orders and the ordained, is responsible to pray the Liturgy of the Hours daily. She keeps as a special focus of her prayer the intentions of her Bishop and clergy and the needs of her diocese. She, like Jesus, "lives in the world" while dedicating her life to the service and good of others. She does not wear a habit or veil, nor does she use the title, "Sister."*

*The consecrated virgin is a particularly striking sign of the love of the Church, the Bride, for Christ, her Bridegroom. At the same time, she is a faithful reminder of the life which is to be ours in the Kingdom of Heaven. She offers the gift of her physical virginity to Christ as a sign of the dedication of her entire being to Him. Through the Rite of Consecration, the Church receives the gift of the virgin and calls down upon her the grace of the Holy Spirit, and she pledges her fidelity to the People of God.*

Please join me in congratulating Elizabeth on her consecration. We are inspired by her dedication to the Lord and the Church. Let us keep her in our prayers that she may continue to find joy in the Lord in the vows she makes next weekend.

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