

*July 1, 2018  
13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time*

### **My Dear Parishioners of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish:**



The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you! I want to take this opportunity to express to you how overjoyed I am to shepherd our beloved Most Blessed Sacrament Parish. Together we have the blessing and responsibility to continue to build the Kingdom of God in West Toledo. I am honored to follow in the footsteps of the many faithful priests who have served in our parish community. I especially want to extend my gratitude to Monsignor Billian and Father Miller for their fraternal support and kindness to me as I assume the duties and responsibilities of being your pastor. I am excited to continue our many wonderful traditions and build upon the rich history of our parish, and maybe with God's holy grace, create some new traditions together!

Some information about me: I am originally from Maumee and grew up in a large Catholic family. Both Mom and Dad have passed on to their heavenly reward. I have three brothers, three sisters, and at last count - over 30 nieces and nephews. We are a close family and try our best to get together often and celebrate life. Prior to seminary, I received a degree in Business Administration from Lourdes University and worked in corporate management for ten years. I entered seminary at age 30 and graduated from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus. I was ordained on June 29, 2002, and recently celebrated my 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination. In addition to completing graduate work in education leadership at the University of Dayton, I have served many parishes and schools across the Diocese of Toledo, including Central Catholic High School, the Historic Church of St. Patrick, St. Joseph, Crestline, Sacred Heart, Bethlehem. Most recently, I served the wonderful people of East Toledo as Pastor of Epiphany of the Lord Parish. I have deeply loved every parish and assignment I have served. I am grateful to now serve our beautiful Most Blessed Sacrament Parish!

I do have a previous connection to our scenic parish: I lived at Most Blessed Sacrament as a seminarian during the summer of 2001 when Fr. Bob Reinhart served as Pastor. I remember then as a seminarian wondering if I could possibly ever become the Pastor of such a beautiful community such as Most Blessed Sacrament Parish. Well, many years later – here we are! In God's providence I pray that our Lord grants us many happy years together.

Without hesitation I tell you that I cherish the gift of priesthood and can't imagine being anything but a priest. As Saint Pope John Paul II said, the priesthood is both a "gift and a mystery". Although priestly ministry is certainly challenging, not a day goes by that I am not grateful for serving as a priest. Aside from ministry, my interests include: movies, music (especially the greatest musical decade – the 80's!), family, road trips, OSU Buckeyes, and anything having to do with ice cream.

In the summer of 2012 I “rescued” a dog I named Augustine (*after St. Augustine, of course*). “Gus” is a white Pomeranian mutt and is a gentle friend to everyone he meets. The only growl I have ever heard from him has been from his stomach. I am sure you will see him around the parish. Gus seems to make many friends wherever he goes and is the most affectionate, peaceful dog you’ll ever meet.

As we begin our journey together, please know of my sincere prayers for you and your loved ones. I look forward to getting to know the families and parishioners that make up our wonderful community. I love to be involved in all areas of parish life and am excited about meeting the many wonderful ministry coordinators and numerous volunteers who, along with our excellent Pastoral Staff, work together for the betterment of our parish. I have a special commitment to meet all of our elder and home-bound and/or facility-bound parishioners over the next several weeks, and I enjoy making home visits. I also have a deep commitment to our youth and our elementary school. Without a doubt our children are the future of our parish and of the Church. I look forward to working with Mr. Greg Sattler, our School Principal, in ensuring the continued growth and success of our elementary school. I truly enjoy meeting and journeying with all of the parishioners who make up our family of faith in this corner of God’s Kingdom known as Most Blessed Sacrament Parish.

If you would like to contact me, please do not hesitate to call the parish office to make an appointment after I am settled in or email me at [frmike@mbsptoledo.org](mailto:frmike@mbsptoledo.org). I look forward to our first Masses together the weekend of July 7/8<sup>th</sup>. **I am including in this letter a prayer that I authored especially for our parish.** Soon after it was announced that I would become your next pastor, I came to pray here in our awesome Perpetual Adoration Chapel and this prayer poured forth from my heart. Perhaps you can place it on your refrigerator or another location in your home and remember to pray often for our parish. I also humbly ask that you pray for me, that I may serve our Lord and our parish as a compassionate and faithful pastor. You can be assured that daily I will pray for all of you.

With hearts filled with trust, we pray that the infinite graces that flow from our sacred namesake: **The Most Blessed Sacrament** – will continue to strengthen and inspire our wonderful community of faith. And may we continue to work together earnestly - as we walk together faithfully - in this beautiful journey of faith.

It is a joy and honor to serve you as your Pastor,

*Fr. Mike*

**Reverend Michael A. Geiger**

+JMJ+



*“Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.”*

*St. John XXIII*

*“Let us go forward in peace, our eyes upon heaven, the ultimate goal of our labors...”*

*St. Thérèse of Lisieux*