April 24, 2016 5th Sunday of Easter - C

TALKING A LOOK AT OURSELVES

INTRODUCTORY THOUGHT
Show and tell: like a wise parent, God teaches by showing.
Follow the leader: like a good teacher, God inspires by doing. God always takes the initiative in dealing with God’s people. There is a strong and important sense in which God never asks us to do anything completely original. The things God asks us to do are always within the realm of God’s holy will.

Reading I: Acts 14:21-27 Of course Jesus was raised from the dead! How could God not see to the resurrection of of his Incarnate Son? His life was filled with love, sacrifice, and good works. Such a life would have no meaning if it simply ended in death. God raised Jesus from the dead as a pledge that good will always ultimately triumph over evil

Reading II: Revelation 21:1-5a There is no greater promise in all scripture than these words: “I make all things new!” No matter how often we have failed, we can begin again. No matter how little we have accomplished, we can hope for more. The path of faith is always open to a new and better future.

Reading III - John 13:31-33a, 34-35 The experience of “falling in love” contains a powerful truth about love. Love is always called forth by someone who needs or feeds our love. Ultimately our love for others is called forth by God’s love for us. We love because God first loved us.

CLOSING THOUGHT: As Christ’s followers, we are called to be concerned about the many needs we see all about us and throughout the world. We are often at a loss for how to respond to needs that are so difficult to understand and so beyond our limited outreach. But the hope of the world is not in our hands alone. We can do our best and then, in quiet confidence, leave the rest to God.

First Communion Last Weekend!

Trust in the mercy of God’s love. Do you know someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of past abortions? Share with them the Good News of God’s merciful love. Call Project Rachel for a confidential referral to those who can help: 1-877-RACHEL-5. Pray that many will seek and receive the gift of God’s infinite mercy.

Are you’re a practicing Catholic who has never received the sacrament of Confirmation? If so, you are invited to talk with Char Modla about what you can do to be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 2016 at a special Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. More information can also be found at our website: http://dio.org/catechesis/adult-confirmation.html

CCW Mother/Daughter/Friend Banquet

The annual CCW Mother/Daughter/Friend Banquet will be held on Thursday, May 12th, in the church basement. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by entertainment. Cost of the catered meal served by Milanos Catering will be $8 per person, children 6-12 $6, 5 and under free. Please make your reservation by calling Faye Weller at 532-5232 or drop your payment in the weekend collection basket. All women of the parish and guests are invited to join us for an evening of fun and fellowship!
St. Louis School
Open House (K-8th grade)

At this week’s weekend Masses there will be speakers from St. Louis School to briefly give some information about their school. They will be available after Mass to answer any questions. The St. Louis School registration begins April 18th for the 2016-2017 school year! You and your child are invited to come and visit the classrooms. Students at SLS are given a Christian-based education and a State/Common Core based curriculum. Small class size, art, music, computers, library, band, sports are just a few of the extra-curricular activities that SLS has to offer.

The Preschool program has two options, three/half days (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) or five/half days. We do accept 3, 4 and 5 year old students. We invite all interested families and their children to come and visit the school on May 2 at 6:30pm. Please call the school office at 563-7445 for more information.

Saint Agnes Catholic Church
P.O. Box 98
214 E Tremont
Hillsboro, Illinois 62049

5th Sunday in Easter Time – 24 April 2016

Known as lovers. This Sunday, when we show up in church (the building) as Church (the People of God), we hear this command anew: love one another. It is what disciples (all of us) do. We love. But we are asked to stretch a bit, perhaps a lot. The command is to love – not only the ones who are easy to love, not only the ones we know and like, but everyone we meet, and even those we will not meet or know. Jesus tells the Church today, “Love.” Jesus tells the disciples today, “Be known as lovers.” Who seems unlikeable, unlovable and needs to be loved? What will I do?

Why would anyone become Catholic? Why would intelligent, successful people give up jobs, alienate friends, and cause havoc in their families... to become Catholic? As he was considering his own move into the Church, Donald Johnson traveled around the country to get the story for himself, from over 20 of today's most interesting and articulate Catholic voices, including Jennifer Fulwiler, Abby Johnson, Jeff Cavins, Kevin Vost, Patrick Coffin, Devin Rose, Patrick Madrid, and Scott Hahn.

“CONVINCED” A special one-night only showing Thursday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. AMC Showplace Springfield 12, Springfield, IL. Tickets $10. Featuring a Q and A with Dr. Kevin Vost.

Dominican Faith Camp for Girls - Girls starting grades 6-9 in the fall are invited to the Dominican Sisters Faith Camp, scheduled for July 24-26, 2016, at Sacred Heart Convent, the Dominican motherhouse, in Springfield, Ill. This popular annual event gives girls an opportunity to learn about Dominican life while enjoying crafts, games, and interaction with the sisters in a comfortable, welcoming, Catholic environment. Faith Campers will learn about prayer, study, Christian service, and community life, and enjoy a special conversation with their own “Sister Buddy.”

Registration is $50 per child and includes The Catholic Youth Prayer Book for each child to take home. Registration forms are available at SpringfieldOP.org. For more information contact Sister Teresa Marron, OP, at 217-787-0481 or agnesone_chris@consolidated.net. You can leave a phone message with your new address.

Very Rev. James L. Neuman, V.F., Pastor
Deacon Leland Johns 532-5288
Char Modla, Pastoral Associate 532-2631
Angie Mizera,CRE Grade K-10 & Parish Secretary
Office & Parish House 217-532-5288
Office hours M-T-W 8:45 to 12:30
Thursday 8:45 to 4:30
Parish Center 217-532-2631
Parish Web site: www.stagneshillsboro.com
Diocesan web site: www.dio.org

CHANGE OF ADDRESS. If you have a change of address will you please notify the parish office at 532-5288 or email agnesone_chris@consolidated.net. You can leave a phone message with your new address.

Mass Schedule
Monday & Wednesday 8:00 am
4:00 pm Saturday
10:00 am Sunday
Confessions Saturday 3:15-3:45pm &
By special appointment 532-5288.

RCLA: Adults interested in becoming members of the Catholic faith, call the Pastoral Associate Office 532-2631.
BAPTISMS: By appointment only after parents have attended required classes. Parents must be registered and active members of St. Agnes Parish for at least 3 months.
FUNERALS: Arrangements are to be made directly through the funeral home. Funeral liturgies are at 10:00 am.
RECONCILIATION: Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 pm., or by appointment. Consult the bulletin.
ANNONTING OF THE SICK: Contact the Priest of the parish, 532-5288.
COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND: Contact Pastoral Associate Office at 532-2681.
MARRIAGE: Arrangements must be made at least 6 months in advance. REGISTRATION AND ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AT ST. AGNES REQUIRED, plus attendance at a pre-cana conference. No weddings to begin later that 2:00 pm on Saturday.

Saint Agnes Parish
Mission Statement

Saint Agnes is a Roman Catholic community called to be disciples of Jesus and to celebrate our faith in work and sacrament. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the love of God by serving others and proclaiming the Gospel with our Lives.