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NEWS AROUND THE PARISH



Ellen and I would like to thank Father Mike, Jim Hehl and our parish Knights of Columbus for a wonderful party last Sunday afternoon. We would also like to thank all those who came and spent the afternoon with us. We really enjoyed visiting with you, reminiscing, and talking about new events and issues. Being with you sure lifted our spirits. We miss you and the rest of our faith community and think about you often. Once again, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

– Deacon Len & Ellen Parker

First Communion is May 15, 2016, at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Fifteen children will receive Jesus in Holy Communion. Due to the large class, seating will be limited.

In honor of Father Mike's birthday on the 15th, St. Benignus has invited us to help him celebrate after their 12:00 noon Mass. They are cooking a wonderful meal and only ask that we have a head count so they can have enough prepared. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Another celebration will be held at the Saturday 5:30 p.m. Mass to thank Mary Stanforth for her service to the school and church. A reception will follow. (Wow, party hearty all day long! Fr. Mike has a birthday registry at Joe's Party Shop, Smith Bakery Shop and Weight Watchers.)

St. Mary Graduation breakfast will be held on June 5, 2016, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Please email or call the PSR office with names of students graduating from High School or College. Please RSVP (stmarycre@cinci.rr.com or 937-840-9932, ext. 2) with numbers attending in your family.



In need of 2 or 3 people for the Soup Kitchen. We have a few teams that need help. Call Linda or Michelle at 937-840-9932.

I hate it when I'm singing a song and the artist gets the words wrong.

I'm from tech support. I'm here to delete your cookies



Some People Should Use a Glue Stick Instead of Chapstick



Coupons4Utah.com



Granma says



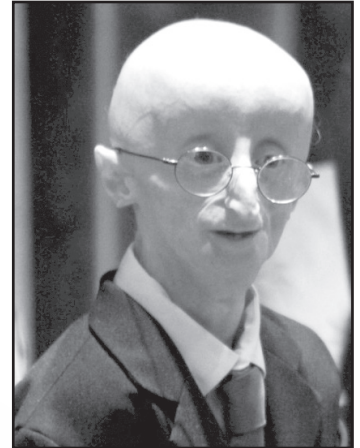
Think Positive - it keeps you young. For example, I fell down the stairs today and I thought WOW - that's the fastest I've moved in years.

I only do what the voices in my wife's head tell her to do



SERMON FOR FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God." I listened to a YouTube clip of a 17 year old teenager named Sam Berns. He exudes happiness, confidence, and wisdom far beyond his years. Why is he so special? He suffers from a disease called progeria, a disease in which he ages very fast. At 17, he looks like 100, weighs about 50 pounds, is completely bald and has a large hook nose. Only 200 children have this disease in the world. In spite of his crippling disease, he proclaimed, "I am happy." He spoke at a conference where he shared his wisdom for a happy life.



He offered the basis for a happy life in eight words, "Don't waste your energies feeling sorry for yourself." He then described three principles that make a happy life. First, be OK with what you can't do because there is so much you can do." It was his dream to play the snare drum in his high school marching band. But the snare drum weighed as much as Sam...50 pounds. He was too weak to carry it. So an inventor created a special light weight harness that transferred the weight in such a way making the drum only weigh six pounds. He proudly marched onto the field, drumming away with smiling classmates looking on. When you are faced with a problem, Jesus would say, "Do only what you can do. I'll take care of the rest. I'll lighten your load."

He then offered the second principle for a happy life. He said, "Surround yourself with people you want to be around." He chose to be around people who looked beyond his disease to see him as a real person, not just an old man-boy. I know how he feels. What energizes me as a priest the most is being around my church family every week where you accept me for who I am, not just because I am a priest. I look forward to the Mass where my family is gathered so I can "smooz" with you. To greet you before Mass, during the sign of Peace and after Mass, to feel your acceptance, is the highlight of my week. It is so important to reconnect with you every week because you are my family here and now... and I draw power from your love. Jesus says it so well, "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." Jesus knew that is how his disciples could strengthen the spirit of each other to face the hardships of life.

His last principle for a happy life, Sam Berns quoted Walt Disney who said, "We don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening new doors and doing new things. Sam could have just wallowed in self-pity because he couldn't carry a big snare drum. Instead he opened a new door to make that drum fit his needs. That is how a Christian should look at every cross, every hardship in life. Ask yourself, "What is God trying to teach me? What is the opportunity for good in what seems so bad for me now?" My friend Bob who has lost two sons at the age of 30 is considering becoming a grief counsellor. He said, "I can look at someone's grief and truly say, 'I know how you feel.' I want to help them from the pain of my broken heart." God is doing a new thing for him. The Bible says, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away....Behold, I make all things new." In God's Kingdom suffering is never wasted.

Soon after his talk which was received with thunderous applause, Sam quietly passed away at 17 years old. The day after his death in January 2014, he was scheduled to stand before a crowd of 70,000 fans in Gillette Stadium, flanked by players of the New England patriots. Now Sam stands before his biggest fan, God, flanked by myriads of angels. Sam will be forever young.....