

THE PASTOR'S POST

PAULS

Dear Parish Family

Over the past week - and we see it in today's first reading - we have started to encounter the life and ministry of Saint Paul at Mass. . I do not know enough about Saint Paul. I studied in the seminary but was never totally drawn into the life of this saint. I find myself drawn to him of late and particularly this year in praying with the Acts of the Apostles. The readings from last Sunday to this Sunday show him trying to be more inclusive in the life of the early Church, seeking to draw in the outsider, the ones on the margins. This does not mean he was a push-over. Read some of his letters and you will see he was unafraid to stand up and call others to more. He was willing to engage and to draw others in, even when it meant dialogue and confrontation for a greater, even if at times less popular, good. I have some work to do in learning and trying to model Saint Paul.

I want to write, today, about another Paul in the life of our own parish who shares many of the same qualities of the St. Paul we meet in the Scriptures. I think of this often but most recently because I was privileged to gather with many from our parish and school to celebrate our own Mr. Paul Clagnaz. Mr. Clagnaz was honored by the Tomorrow's Hope Foundation with the 2025 Peg Ranieri Educator Award for his over 40 years in Catholic education and his commitment to the Tomorrow's Hope Foundation since its inception in 2005. This award and celebration was a recognition of Mr. Clagnaz's incredible and ongoing (and we pray ongoing for years to come!) work in forming young people, seeking to include and invite so many into Catholic education, and doing the hard and often overwhelming work of leading a Catholic school. For some it is a job. For others, it is a leadership

position. For others, a stepping stone. For our Mr. Clagnaz, it is a vocation, a calling that shows itself again and again as a sign from God.

I first met Mr. Clagnaz in the 1990s. I was here doing a Confirmation retreat in the religious education program and he was running copies on the Gestetner machine (Google that!) for an upcoming school fundraiser. I did not know him then but thought to myself that there's a Catholic school leader, doing what needs to be done - on a Saturday night no less - so young people and their families have a place to call home. He is still doing



those incredible things - big and small - for our young people and their families so this can be their home, a safe haven where all are welcomed and loved, formed and challenged, encouraged and inspired to do incredible things for the life of the Church and the world.

Not only does he lead a high achieving academic school in our diocese and local area, he is leading an even higher achieving Catholic school that is working each day to bring the inclusive love of God to each student so they can go forth to "love one another". This is the ultimate mission of a Catholic school: to form disciples in the light of Christ. Come to our school any time and you will see a commitment to prayer and worship, justice and service. You will encounter boys and girls being called to become men and women of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. These are all the things Saint Paul wrote about in the Scriptures (Galatians 5:22-23).

The students and families in our school - not to mention each of us touched by Mr Clagnaz in the parish and local community - are called to live in this



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PAULS/PABLOS

way because he embodies these qualities. It's Mr. Clagnaz who is at the parish Pastoral Team meeting while also running the kitchen for the Real Food fundraiser. It's Mr. Clagnaz who agonizes over the best restorative approach for a student in crisis while handling the challenges of a difficult parent. It's Mr. Clagnaz who is trying to form and give freedom to faculty and staff while making sure students are well prepared for the challenges of high school and beyond. It is he who is so committed to family life in the parish because the gift of the Eucharist is such an important part of his. Often done with a smile, a gentle presence, a witty remark, Mr. Clagnaz in ways big and small leads, teaches, ministers, and models in the ways of Saint Paul and so many others.

How blessed is our parish to have Mr. Clagnaz among us! The Tomorrow's Hope Foundation gave recognition to what we have known so well here at St. Brigid's and maybe even taken for granted. We have an incredible gift in our Catholic school and an incredible leader who brings our parish and school together in beautiful and amazing ways.

As I am working on my homily this weekend, I cannot help but be drawn to the word Advocate in the Gospel. It's a description of the Spirit. It is an apt description for Saint Paul, particularly as we pray with today's first reading. It is certainly an incredible description of Mr. Paul Clagnaz - an advocate for so many in so many beautiful ways. May we be inspired to do the same. Indeed, how blessed are we!

Please pray for me. I promise the same.

Featherston



Querida familia parroquial

Durante la semana pasada - y lo vemos en la primera lectura de hoy - hemos empezado a encontrarnos con la vida y el ministerio de San Pablo en la Misa. No conozco suficientemente a San Pablo. Estudié en el seminario, pero nunca me atrajo del todo la vida de este santo. Últimamente me he sentido atraído por él, sobre todo este año, al rezar con los Hechos de los Apóstoles. Las lecturas desde el domingo pasado hasta este domingo nos muestran a Jesús tratando de ser más inclusivo en la vida de la Iglesia primitiva, tratando de atraer a los de fuera, a los marginados. Esto no significa que fuera un prepotente. Lean algunas de sus cartas y verán que no temía levantarse y pedir más a los demás. Estaba dispuesto a comprometerse y a atraer a los demás, incluso cuando ello implicaba diálogo y confrontación por un bien mayor, aunque a veces menos popular. Me queda mucho por aprender y tratar de imitar a San Pablo.

Hoy quiero escribir sobre otro Pablo en la vida de nuestra parroquia que comparte muchas de las cualidades del San Pablo que encontramos en las Escrituras. Pienso en él a menudo, pero más recientemente porque tuve el privilegio de reunirme con muchos de nuestra parroquia y escuela para celebrar a nuestro propio Sr. Paul Clagnaz. El Sr. Clagnaz fue honrado por la Fundación Esperanza del Mañana con el Premio Educador Peg Ranieri 2025 por sus más de 40 años en la educación católica y su compromiso con la Fundación Esperanza del Mañana desde su creación en 2005. Este premio y la celebración fueron un reconocimiento a la increíble y continua labor del Sr. Clagnaz (¡y rezamos para que continúe en los años venideros!) en la formación de los jóvenes, tratando de incluir e invitar a tantos a la educación católica, y haciendo el trabajo duro y a menudo abrumador de dirigir una escuela católica. Para algunos es un trabajo. Para otros, una posición de liderazgo. Para otros, un trampolín. Para nuestro Sr. Clagnaz, es una vocación, una llamada que se manifiesta una y otra vez como una señal de Dios.

Conocí al Sr. Clagnaz en los años noventa. Yo estaba aquí haciendo un retiro de Confirmación en el programa de educación religiosa y él estaba haciendo copias en la