

2017 – 2018 St. Mark the Evangelist Thank You

Because of your generosity this past fiscal year, St. Mark was able to complete our parking lot project, including all the complicated ditching and new sidewalks that went with it. We supported Fr. Mike's "Cap the Container" project which brought a whole shipping container of donated items to the needy in Senegal. We were also able to build our own labyrinth along with the landscaping that enhances it. Because of you we continue to minister to God's people in Goodrich and Grand Blanc. We are so grateful. May God bless you.

In Honor of *Respect Life Month* these are thoughts from Pope Francis from Gaudete Et Exsultate

"Our defense of the innocent unborn...needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection. We cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice in a world where some revel, spend with abandon and live only for the latest consumer goods, even as others look on from afar, living their entire lives in abject poverty.

We often hear it said that, with respect to relativism and the flaws of our present world, the situation of migrants, for example, is a lesser issue. Some Catholics consider it a secondary issue compared to the 'grave' bioethical questions....The only proper attitude [for a Christian] is to stand in the shoes of those brothers and sisters of ours who risk their lives to offer a future to their children. Can we not realize that this is exactly what Jesus demands of us, when he tells us that in welcoming the stranger we welcome him. Saint Benedict did so readily, and though it might have 'complicated' the life of his monks, he ordered that all guests who knocked at the monastery door be welcomed 'like Christ,' with a gesture of veneration; the poor and pilgrims were to be met with 'the greatest care and solicitude.'"