



Reflection from Fr. Don Farnan

This past week, our staffs of Saint James and Saint Therese had the pleasure to meet with staff members of Saint Francis Xavier and Guardian Angels. In addition, I participated in some small group listening sessions with members of STLF and St. James and am reminded that, placed before us, are grace-filled opportunities to carry out the Gospel message in the heart of Kansas City and to be a beacon of hope for people throughout our diocese and metropolitan area. Uniquely situated in the heart of the city, we can provide avenues for others to live their faith through actions that help the most vulnerable in our society. It could be likened to the veins and arteries that allow blood to flow through the body. One of the main arteries is Troost Avenue and one of the main streams is Brush Creek. From above, they form a Sign of the Cross in our city's core. As traffic and water flow along or through them, we might consider the life-blood of the church and the heart of Jesus' message that we can help spread.

If we work with one another and our sisters and brothers of parishes nearby, especially through the social awareness and justice groups at Visitation, Saint Elizabeth, Saint Peter, Cure of Ars, Rockhurst, and others, we will have a better understanding of the Body of Christ in our midst and how His life-blood enlivens us. We take on very practical issues like food for the hungry people in our communities, yet we also grapple with issues that are less tangible: assisting refugees and asylum seekers, addressing homelessness in our city, tackling issues of racism in daily encounters, witnessing to youth and teaching skills of leadership, and growing our parishes in membership, in outreach to neighbors, as well as in closeness to God. In the heart of this city that is placed in the heart of America, we are given a blessed opportunity to work together and connect God's people in unified efforts that draw us closer to one another and to Christ.

Each autumn individual members of our faith communities consider how we each can offer ourselves as stewards and renew our commitment as servant-disciples of His mission. As we do, let's think about both a practical act we can offer (donate food, pray for those who suffer, volunteer an hour a week at church or a ministry of service...), let's also consider how we might do something to unite our heartland coalition in a common mission that can make Kansas City a better place to live, learn, work, and worship.

*Blessings,
Fr. Don*