

In ancient Greece, Socrates was reputed to hold knowledge in high esteem. One day an acquaintance met the great philosopher and said, "Do you know what I have just heard about your friend?"

"Hold on a minute," Socrates replied, "Before you talk to me about my friend, it might be a good idea to take a moment and filter what you are going to say. That's why I call it the Triple Filter Test. The first filter is TRUTH. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are to tell me is TRUE?"

"Well, No" the man said, "actually I just heard about it and...."

"All right," said Socrates "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second filter, the filter of GOODNESS. Is what you are about to tell me about my friend something GOOD?"

"Umm, No, on the contrary....."

"So" Socrates continued, "you want to tell me something bad about my friend, but you're not certain it's true. You may still pass the test though, there's one Filter left -

The Filter of USEFULNESS.

Is what you want to tell me about my friend going to be useful to me?

"No, not really."

"Well," concluded Socrates, " If what you want to tell me is neither TRUE, Nor Good, Nor even Useful, why tell it to me at all?"

My dear Fellow St. Rose parishioners, please allow me to share with you what we know is true. We are a vibrant, caring, nurturing, Christ-centered and loving community of Faith, that is led by an amazing Pastor. His love for our Parish Family is evident in every Mass, every baptism, every wedding, every Funeral. If I had a nickel for every time I heard someone say what a beautiful sacrament of marriage Fr. Owen did for their child, or what a personal and loving baptism for their grandchild, or what a comforting and healing Mass of Thanksgiving for their loved one who has passed on...let's just say it would be very hard to count all those nickels.

How blessed are we that we can now say the same about Fr. Matthew, Deacon Michal and God willing, soon under the guidance and mentorship of Fr. Owen, we will have Deacons Michal and Andrew and Seminarians Kamil and Alex as our future priests. With the support and assistance from our permanent Deacon Vin as well, Fr. Owen has made our parish proud in our Diocese to be a place where young men come to learn to be the best Priests possible so that they can shepherd the Faithful for years to come.

This we know is true.

As for all of us that are not the priests, the deacons or the seminarians, We are not only the majority of the Parish Family of St. Rose, We ARE the Church. We, the faithful of this parish, each and every one of us here and many, many more not here right at this moment, are what makes St. Rose of Lima so special. This parish is a Faith-Filled, generous Christ centered community. There are signs when you enter from outside the boundaries of East Hanover that describe the township of East Hanover as a caring community, Arguably,

those signs could just as easily read, "Home of St. Rose of Lima, a caring community." I know I speak for all of us when I share with pride all that we do here. This parish has a "Food Pantry" that is constantly replenished by you and continuously feeds the hungry in not only our parish, but beyond. We deliver meals on wheels to the homebound. We prepare our Rel Ed students for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and we prepare our teens for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We prepare adults either new to our faith or in need of their Sacraments through RCIA. So much of this Faith Formation and sacramental preparation from pre school through High school and into adulthood is done through you, all the many volunteer catechists, Youth Ministry chaperones, Extraordinary Ministers, and through every parishioner that has prayed for our prayer intentions, has ever supported a Youth Ministry or Knights of Columbus fundraiser, each and every one of you makes up the whole that we are:

A loving, supportive, Faith filled Parish Family!

This we know is Good!

What Now? My fellow St. Rose parishioners keep up who we are and what we are, but strive for continued excellence in this very special place we call home.

In 1957, Faithful Catholics from our community came together and founded our beloved St. Rose of Lima. For decades since, we have built and nurtured this parish together. We stood on the shoulders of our predecessor and we grew and cared for generations of families from 'Birth and Baptism' to 'Death and Burial'.

I encourage you to read Fr. Owen's inspiring message in the beautiful brochure he sent us. Read also the many ministries listed, and even more on our Parish website, these ministries that we do for and with each other, as we know in helping others we also help ourselves.

Join another ministry if your time permits. But, most importantly, in this sixtieth anniversary year of our beloved parish. Just keep doing what you already are...praying receiving the Sacraments, helping each other, striving to shine

the light of Christ for one and all. This is being the church.
This is God's work here on Earth. This is good and this is
useful.

Thank you and God Bless!