

By now, you are all aware of my passion for the Catholic Faith Appeal. Not only do your contributions towards the CFA support countless ministries within the Diocese of Venice, they also satisfy a very important component of our annual budget. We are constantly trying to come up with new and innovative ideas to assist us in reaching our annual goal. After talking with the board of Paul Todd Charities, we have decided to host a Reverse Raffle as a fundraiser for the Catholic Faith Appeal. For those that have been around for at least ten years, you may remember that the parish hosted just such an event back in 1999. Here is a brief explanation of how the raffle works: Many of you are asking “what is a Reverse Raffle?” It is exactly what the name implies. Rather than the 1st ticket drawn winning the raffle, the last ticket drawn in a Reverse Raffle is the big winner. In this particular instance, we will be selling 300 tickets for the raffle at a cost of \$100 each. The winning ticket (or the last one drawn) will win \$10,000.00. This is a great return on a \$100 investment. In addition, your \$100 ticket also gains you (and a guest) admission to the party where you will enjoy dinner, entertainment and an open bar. In order to keep everyone’s interest throughout the evening, we will also offer cash prizes randomly as the raffle progresses. The 1st ticket drawn will win \$100 as will every 25th ticket drawn for the remainder of the raffle. So in other words, 12 lucky attendees will get their money back and enjoy a great evening of entertainment at no cost. In addition, Paul Todd will be performing before the raffle begins and then playing 30 minute sets after the drawing of every 100 numbers. You need not be present to win, so if you are headed back to your northern residence and unable to attend, you are encouraged to purchase a ticket with the comfort of knowing that we will either send you a check for your winnings or keep your winnings in safekeeping until you return in the fall. If you have never attended a reverse raffle, let me assure you that it is a lot of fun. When the drawing is down to the final ten ticket holders, there is a great deal of excitement in the air creating an “electric” atmosphere. I have hosted several of these events in the past several years and on many occasions, there are multiple winners as the final three to five ticket holders have opted to split the \$10,000.00 grand prize. So allow me to recap.....For \$100, you will receive admission for two, a catered meal, an open bar and entertainment by Paul Todd as well as the chance to win \$10,000.00. I can think of no better deal locally for a cost of \$50 per person. The Reverse Raffle will take place on Friday, May 1st at 6:30 pm in the ballroom of the Parish Life Center. Tickets will be available outside of Mass beginning this weekend or you may come by the parish office to purchase yours. This is a great opportunity for all of us to support the Catholic Faith Appeal while enjoying great entertainment and great camaraderie. We must sell all 300 tickets in order for the event to take place. The last two Reverse Raffles I hosted for St. Agnes sold out and there was a waiting list so please do not delay.

Did you attend Mass this past Sunday? If so you were exposed to a rare treat as the choir from St. Pius X in Kingston, Jamaica entertained at several of the Masses. This was a prelude to the concert which took place on Monday evening in the PLC. Unfortunately seating was very limited and many were unable to secure a ticket to the concert. This was a great example for those of you that contribute to our sister parish to see first hand the great works your donations are being used to support. In addition, the 2nd collection for our brothers and sister at St. Pius X was over \$33,000.00. Due to the many things going on this past Sunday with the choir performing and Fr. Burchell celebrating Mass, the 9:00 am Mass did not end until nearly 10:30 am. This caused severe gridlock in the parking lot and created a parking lot of sorts on 111th Avenue North. Although this was irritating to many trying to leave and enter the parking lot, it is wonderful to see so many people coming to Mass to hear the word of God. I am sure there are countless parishes around the nation that would love to have the same problem. We apologize for the inconvenience many of you experienced this past weekend.

We are looking for volunteers to assist before the 9:00 am & 11:00 am Masses with refreshments. While we have many willing to serve refreshments, we are looking for volunteers to help prepare the coffee and fruit. If you are interested, please contact Elida at 592-7973. Thank you in advance for your consideration and assistance.

Thank you so much for supporting St. John the Evangelist.

In His work together,

Scott Schlossberg, MBA
General Manager