

21 June 2020

Dear St.Charles Parishioner:

The church calendar calls this the “Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time.” But since it is also the third Sunday in June, we also call it “**Father's Day.**” So today, at all our Masses, we will remember all fathers both the living and the deceased.

I hope your dad was a good guy; mine was. My dad had great admiration for his father who was a Cleveland firefighter. My dad wanted a son to name after his dad—so that's where my name came from,”John Carlin” but “Jack” informally. My grandfather joined the Department in 1901 and he retired in 1939. He died before I was born. Apparently, he was quite a character. My dad had lots of stories about his father and I've tried to remember them. My grandfather had cronies with great nicknames like Blackjack O'Rourke, Fuzzy Finucan, and Goat Gerity; the list could go on! I have my grandfather's rosary but I donated his badges and old-time Fire Department photographs to the Fire Museum on Carnegie Avenue.

My dad earned his living as a steamfitter; today he would be called a pipefitter. He was a Local 120 man. “Fitters” of my dad's generation, when on the job, often wore blue bib overalls, a white-and-blue striped hat, and sported a pocket watch. To me, my dad looked just like a locomotive engineer and, as a kid, I was crazy about trains. Steam locomotives disappeared when I was in grade school. I don't know how far my dad went with formal education. I do know that he attended Immaculate Conception School on Superior at East 40<sup>th</sup>. But that's all he spoke of. What I do know is that he knew all the trades and crafts; he could make, fix, or create anything. He always had some project. I guess that's what kept him going until he was 92. He stayed active, involved, and interested. He had a swell sense of humor and he could tell the best stories. He treated my mother with tremendous respect and affection; he was fond of saying that his greatest blessing was “marrying Mary Carney.” My dad was very old-fashioned, but we knew that my mother really ran the show. If I went to him for a permission, his standard answer was “ask your mother.” To the end of his life, he knelt by the side of his bed at night “and said his prayers.” Next week he will be gone thirty years; I suppose that's why I have been thinking about him so much lately and why I am telling you about him today. Memories make us what we are; I hope I never embarrass the memory of the Carlin dads who have gone before me!

**Happy Father's Day!**

How are your ticket sales going for the **2020 “Two Step” St Charles Summer Raffle?** The first mailing should have reached your house by now. Additional white and blue tickets are available from the Parish Office. Each time you sell a sheet, fill out the Seller's Appreciation Ticket. The first \$500 Drawing will take place next Sunday, June 28, with seven more weekly \$500 drawings to follow. The “second mailing” is scheduled for what would have been “Carnival Week” in mid-July. Sellers of all four sheets, June #1 and July #2, will be entered in a raffle for a surprise gift that I will provide in gratitude for your help and generosity. Keep guessing what that prize might be! The 2020 Grand Raffle Prizes are:

**2020 GMC Terrain (Axelrod Buick GMC)**

**\$4500 Roof (Second-to-None Roofing)**

**\$3500 Gift Cards or Cash**

For many years, it has been the practice of our eighth grade graduating class to present a farewell gift to the parish; that gift usually takes the form of some special item for our sanctuary. The Class of 2020 gave a gift of \$1600 to be used for the “livestreaming” project in our church. Thank you to them, and to a number of other parishioners who have made generous contributions to “the cause” that will enable us to livestream Mass regularly to the homes of the elderly and homebound. We hope to be “up and running” directly from our church in the near future!

Last fall, while visiting Italy, a number of St Charles parishioners got together and ordered a Mass vestment for our parish. That gift arrived last week. Fittingly, it is a reproduction of a vestment first designed by St Charles Borromeo in the sixteenth century. That style is still made in Rome today and it is called a “**Borromeo chasuble.**” It is a

beautiful addition to our parish and those who provided it will be remembered at the altar whenever it is used. May it also remind them of their good company and the good times on their enjoyable pilgrimage trip last year!

Your continued generosity to St Charles Parish, especially in these uncertain times, is gratefully acknowledged. The Offertory for Sunday, June 14, was \$23,860.75.

*Father Casler*