**PASTORAL LETTER FROM FR. KEN – APRIL 2020**

**Dear beloved members of our Parish Family of St. Katharine Drexel Church,**

**I am writing this letter amid the current global and national pandemic known as the COVID – 19 and during the diocesan bankruptcy process and a clergy sexual abuse scandal that has rocked our church.**

**It is a time of great suffering and pain. It is also a time of renewal, reflection, prayer and action. It is a time to reflect on who we are and what we are about.**

**We have been given the gift of time to think about what it is to be Church. The Church is not a place but a call to be “a people”, a community, a family.**

**As Vatican II reminds us, “we are the People of God and the Body of Christ.”**

**We have an opportunity to chart a new path with a new spirit of faith and a sense of identity and belonging.**

**I would invite you to join us in this process and journey to renewal and “divine renovation”.**

**Please join us in reading and discussing two important resources for our study, prayer and reflection.**

**“Divine Renovation” by Fr. James Mallon**

**Twenty Third Publications**

**2014**

**“Rediscovering the Heart of the Gospel” by Dr. Edward Sri**

**Pope Francis and the Joy of the Gospel**

**Our Sunday Visitor**

**2014**

**You are invited to journey with us as we move forward to a “future full of hope”’**

**St Katharine Drexel Parish is a Catholic Christian Community of disciples of the Lord Jesus. We believe that each person is called to be on a spiritual journey and what matters is not where one is on the journey but that one is indeed on the way! We seek to welcome each person regardless of the stage or season each person finds themselves but, on a desire, to grow closer to the person of Jesus Christ.**

**We are a hospital for sinners not a hotel or museum for saints.**

**We simply ask that you walk with us and be open to the place where God is calling you to.**

**To be a Catholic Christian is to enter a relationship with Jesus and other brothers and sisters together in a community and in a family of faith. The Church invites us and has clear expectations and responsibilities of membership and belonging.**

**WORSHIP**

**We gather to celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday, the Lord’s Day. This is not only a commandment to keep holy the Lord’s day but an opportunity and invitation that needs a response.**

**The Eucharist as sacrament and sacrifice is the source and summit of life as a Christian. It is food for the journey. We need to be nourished by the Word of God and the Bread of Life.**

**GROWTH**

**We are called to grow as disciples of the Lord. We are not called to stay still but to journey. A disciple is “one who is learning”. We are called to grow in mind, body and spirit in heart and mind and soul. Faith Formation is necessary at every age and season of life.**

**SERVICE**

**The essence of discipleship is to serve in ministry. We are asked to be God – centered and neighbor centered. We exist to serve and to love and to be build up the Kingdom of God in our midst. Jesus said that “we are called to serve not to be served”.**

**COMMUNITY**

**The church is family and a community of believers, not just a social collection of individuals. We are connected through CHRIST to one another. We are accountable to one another and for one another. We are each a member of this parish family and connected being intentional about reaching out and connecting with others. Parish life is more than a convenient Mass time on Sunday wherever that might be.**

**SACRIFICIAL GIVING/TITHING IN TIME TALENT AND TREASURE**

**The expectation of discipleship and membership is to give generously, regularly and sacrificially in proportion to that which has been given! We are to give out of thanksgiving and gratitude. The offering at Mass is essential as we do our fair share of the burden of ministry and build up the Kingdom here. Stewardship is not about budgets and fiscal accounting but rather a spiritual and a way of life and faith. It is an investment. It is a three-fold way of giving all that we are to others.**

**Michelangelo once said, “The greater danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high, and we miss it, but that it is too low, and we reach it”.**

**May we reach high and seek what is above for the honor and glory of God and His Kingdom here on earth.**

**“Ad Summum Bonum” To the Highest Good**