

[Addendum]

As we reach the midpoint of summer, I want to update you about a change in staffing at the Religious Education Program. Lisa Weesner, our Coordinator, has accepted a position at a different parish. We thank Lisa for her combined fourteen years of service in the RE Office. Her final day at St. James will be on Friday, July 12. In the meantime, please join me in praying for a new candidate for this important role. Look for future updates in the near future as information becomes available.

Additionally, I have been receiving feedback, directly and mostly secondhand, about the bird netting above Doors 11 and 12. The netting was added in response to parishioner concerns related to safety of students (children), cleanliness, and a solution safe for the birds themselves. After research by Fr. Hankus, along with a committee of parishioners, the netting was found to be the most effective way to address all concerns. This solution has been satisfactory for many, many years.

The netting was installed and maintenance procedures were also addressed. The netting and area are scheduled for routine cleaning and upkeep. The maintenance includes a process to give the birds an opportunity and time to fly away. The birds are encouraged, not forcibly removed, to leave on their own. In addition, when needed, the technician is called to cut a larger, temporary opening for more birds to fly on their own. However, birds return to the area where they have previously nested due to their territorial nature.

Is the solution perfect? No but it does provide a *safer* entrance, especially for our children, which is the first and most important goal.

Lastly, please remember to mark your calendars for the rededication of our parish hall in honor of Fr. Sebahar for Saturday, July 20 at 4pm. We will have a special blessing and light refreshments available after the Mass. As previously mentioned, the stage was removed this week based on the walkthrough last December with the Diocesan Facilities Office. The flooring was matched with a similar color and threaded seamlessly with the existing flooring. Pardon our dust throughout next week as the drywall is repaired and repainted before the rededication. I hope this space continues to improve as intended for a meeting and gathering space instead of a storage area.