

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

What does it mean to be a “registered parishioner?”

*“Leave me alone!” Does anybody really mean that, seriously? Oh, for awhile maybe, when you’re in a snit, when you’d rather eat parsnips than apologize to a friend, but not too many can play the hermit too long. We’re social beings; we need relationships. Something so consistent that it must be an essential part of being human just won’t let us bury ourselves for too long. And the worst punishment – sometimes crueller than death – is solitary confinement. (From the book, **Why Be Catholic? By William J. O’Malley**)*

Being a “registered” parishioner means...

- You are recognized as a member of a particular ecclesial community within the overall “Church.”...part of a family.
- It means that that family prays for you, encourages you, grieves with you in times of sorrow, rejoices with you in times of happiness.
- It means that people know you.
- That you are willing to support the work of that family in its apostolate of education, of support for the sick, the elderly, the needy, children.
- It is a “locus” for your volunteering...thus, heeding the call of Christ to love your brothers and sisters.
- It means you are ready to be recognized as a Catholic and associated with a particular family. This has a SIGN value. Every one of us should be replacing ourselves as Catholics. As a priest, it’s my job to interest others to the priesthood. As Catholics, you should be encouraging others to be Catholics. Your presence in Church, your willingness to be associated with its mission, encourages others to do the same.
- It means that the pastor knows he has people he can count on to support the work of the Church.

Why be a secret Catholic?...someone who, after he passes away, people ask...who was that masked man?...or woman? Unzip the cocoon! Take part in the life of your parish. Be part of the SPIRIT!