**PASTOR’S COLUMN** **September 17, 2023**

By **Fr. Bob Marciano**

**HEARING IS BELIEVING!** Our sincere thanks to Tom and Sue Lynch who had Mulholland Sounds do a sound assessment for the church and then donated the new speakers. They suggested that we add 4 new speakers at the ceilings in the wing areas. They have been put in place by our own Bryan Barrette and Ed Allard to improve the sound quality in the church. It sure has made a difference. Also, there are new hearing devices available for your use. They can be found in the first sacristy. The earphones are yours to keep and use each week, but the device you can pick up before Mass and return afterwards. Thanks again to Bryan Barrette for this new feature for those who have difficulty hearing. Listening to the Word of God is part of our life!

**HE WILL BE 90 YEARS YOUNG!** On Friday, September 22 our own Father Frank O’Hara will celebrate his 90th birthday! We are so very blessed and ever grateful that he is our Pastor Emeritus. We thank him for his many years of ministry with our good friend and co-Pastor the late Father Bob Hawkins. They were, and still are, the “DREAM TEAM” that brought new life to our parish. As you know, Father O’Hara is not one for celebrations for himself and he declined our offer of a party but has instead agreed to be the celebrant for our annual GRANDPARENTS DAY MASS for the school since he is that for us all! The Mass will be on Friday, October 13 at 10 a.m. and will be followed by games, fun events, and lunch with our school children.

Father has also agreed to allow me to establish the *FATHER FRANK O’HARA SCHOLARSHIP FUND* for Saint Kevin School. This fund will be used to help families in financial need meet their tuition costs. Cards for Father Frank can be sent to the rectory at 333 Sandy Lane. If you choose to include a donation, please make the check out to Saint Kevin School with a note that it is to be put toward the Father O’Hara Fund. We have our school today because of his support and leadership while he was Administrator in 2012. How fitting that we would establish this legacy for him and the school he saved and loves! Please check out the full color ad in the *Rhode Island Catholic* sending prayers and best wishes to our “Pastor Emeritus, Teacher, and Friend.“ Our best wishes to Father Frank for many more happy and healthy years!

**WELCOME FATHER AL RICCI** This weekend, Father is at all our Masses speaking about our Priests’ Retirement Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

Have a great week and God bless,

***Father Bob Marciano***