

Pastor Bill Mugnolo

St. John/Zion Parish

**July 2019 Newsletter Article: "Prayer, Reflection, and Planning"**

Many businesses and other organizations plan their year ahead according to the calendar year of January to December. Most congregations tend to follow this pattern as well. But then, there are those institutions which plan their year according to a "fiscal year" which follows a twelve-month cycle that is different from the calendar year. The Federal Government, for example, operates on an October-September fiscal year.

There have been times where I've thought that congregations would be better served—at least in their ministry planning—by going to a July-June twelve month cycle. Most ministries in Churches tend to follow along the September to June School year model. Prior to that, the months of July and August can be months that are centered upon prayer, reflection, and planning for the "year" ahead.

So it will be for me over the next couple of months. After I return from my son-in-law's ordination/installation in Texas, I will be focusing upon prayer, reflection, and planning ahead. Several of our Bible studies will continue into the summer months while others will go into recess (check your calendar for the dates on them). During this time, I will be putting together several of our Bible studies for the months ahead. I will also be looking to visit some of you that I haven't gotten around to see just yet.

These next two months will also be a time for me to look back at where we've been together over our first two years together as the St. John/Zion dual parish. At times, dual parishes can end up being "dueling parishes" with each other. This has been anything but the case between St. John and Zion. It has been a blessing when folks from one congregation join in on the activities of the other. For me, serving both Churches has been double the blessings.

Still, we face many challenges—especially as we go out into an increasingly unchurched world. How we are to face those challenges will be a major focal of my prayers, reflection, and planning over the next couple of months. It has been a joy to serve you both and I look forward to what the Lord has in store for us next. May Christ's guidance and peace be with you (and me) over these summer months.

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Bill