

What Do You Mean, I'm Not Registered!

We are in the process of installing a new database at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and that means we will need to register all of our parishioners. The Pastoral parish Council members have taken the lead on this project. Many of you were here and helped build the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church before it was designated as a Cathedral, and may have registered then. However, with the new database you will need to register again.

Following is an excerpt from the article, “**What Do You Mean, I’m Not Registered?**” published in March 2014 in the **PEOPLE OF GOD** by Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan and edited here to fit our circumstances. In his article, Archbishop Sheehan states “registering in a parish is a declaration of your desire to be part of a Catholic community and to make a commitment to the life of the specific parish. “Unfortunately”, the Archbishop continues, “it is becoming a common occurrence that when someone needs to obtain a letter of good standing from their pastor they are surprised to find out **they are not registered!** You will need one to become a sponsor for any sacrament, especially if you are going to another parish in the diocese.” At the Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, registering will give you the opportunity to serve in any parish ministry.

The reasons some people are not registered are many but the two most common are: “I have been attending the same Catholic church for years,” and they consider themselves part of the community. They place cash in the donation baskets every Sunday, they know many of the parishioners and the parishioners and the pastor know them—**they just never registered!** There are those who have been confirmed and are out of high school and are now considered adults in our Catholic faith. One day, they may be asked to become sponsors for baptism or confirmation or to witness the sacrament of marriage, so they go to get the letter of good standing and find out **they are not registered!**~

“Why is it so important to register?” Archbishop Sheehan compares registering to attending a school--elementary, high school, technical school, or university—“You have to be registered to get credit hours. So when you need a transcript to prove you have attended a school, there will be no record for you, unless you registered. “Why do some people resist registering at any parish?” “Some,” Archbishop Sheehan reports “is because they do not want to receive envelopes for their donations. Talk to your pastor,” he says, “about your concern. It may be that you are not able to give financially to your parish at this time, but you might be able to donate some volunteer time instead. It may be that you don’t want your financial contributions “tracked,” but God already knows what you give, so why not wrap your financial gift in the provided envelope?”

In the near future, the Pastoral Parish Council will be providing more information to you on how to register, and if you like to volunteer to help with this important project, please call the office at 524-8563 and leave your contact information. Sometimes, we just need to contact someone for various reasons as part of our pastoral ministry to our parishioners. Sometimes we need to get in touch with someone-for their benefit and we have no contact information.