

Parish vs. Parochialism

Parochialism is
wary of *others*;
a parish welcomes them
as sisters and brothers.

Parochialism separates us
from *them*;
a parish unites us
with them.

Parochialism
closes us in;
a parish
opens us out.

Parochialism forms
a club;
a parish fosters
community.

Parochialism
sows suspicions;
a parish
promotes respect.

Parochialism segregates
and excludes;
a parish incorporates
and includes.

Parochialism constricts
and confines;
a parish expands
and overflows.

Parochialism would have us
dig in;
a parish bids us to
reach out.

Parochialism is self-centered
and self-serving;
a parish is self-effacing
in its service.

Parochialism preaches:
“Only for us!”
A parish should be
magnanimous.

When, therefore,
worshipers are concerned
only about their own interests,
they are guilty of
parochialism.

If, however, our interest is
in the concerns of others,
we form a true parish.

© *Msgr. Walter Niebrzydowski*
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Fr-Walter@nyc.rr.com
www.fatherwaltersparish.org