

# Thank you

I wish to express my gratitude to all who made our Holy Week and Easter Sunday so beautiful:

**Our “Ashes to Fire Choir”** were truly a blessing at all of our parish liturgies. No doubt, much time and effort was put into the choice and preparation of music and it was executed so very well. Thank you, friends, for all of your sacrifices and for the care with which you served our community during Lent and Holy Week.

And, as always, the **Environment Committee** decorated our Church with impeccable beauty and dignity befitting the seasons. I know that this involved some back-breaking work involving ladders, heavy potted plants, rocks, fabrics and other things. And many of you have been literally doing this work for decades! It is always executed with grace and propriety: Thank you for lending your time and talents to enhance our worship and prayer.

We are immensely blessed to have **the parish staff** we have in their going-above-and-beyond to assist with the devotions of Lent and Holy Week as well as the coordination of ministers, rehearsals, scheduling and other matters. Many extra hours were spent making things happen in the background, and I am deeply grateful for their service.

This year we were truly blessed to have so many **young people** participate in our liturgies. For me it was a sign of hope and encouragement from the Lord. Our Confirmation candidates were impressively open to the experience of Holy Thursday, including the bus-pilgrimage to seven churches in our area. On Good Friday we had an

exemplary bunch lead us on the Way of the Cross across the full width of the property. And our **youth readers** proclaimed the word flawlessly at our Easter Vigil: I think we were all most impressed with their presence and their contribution.

Thanks too for the ongoing, behind-the-scenes contribution of **those who count the collections** and keep track of the monetary matters in service of our corporate desire to be good stewards of the sacrificial gifts and donations provided by those who worship with us.

There are, of course, so many others who have contributed in big and small ways during this season of Grace: I am indebted to **Deacon Bruce** for leading most of our devotions and helping to execute when it was time for the liturgies. I am also grateful to Fr. Furlong for his generous and most helpful assistance. Our **Liturgy Committee, ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers and servers** have all been so dedicated in their service; how would we perform without them?

Whenever I pause in a moment of gratitude, I am struck by the treasure we truly have as a community. The active participation of each person redounds to the edification of all! Even the mere act of being present on a Sunday morning is a reality which builds-up community. Any and every contribution we can make to add to a sense of being together on the journey to the Kingdom of God is worth its weight in gold.

As we move forward into the Spring and Summer months, we anticipate increased activity in the renovation of Neumann Hall, including the framing-up of the columbarium and connecting elements of the project. This, in its own way, will serve as a summons to ever greater involvement on the part of all. It is my hope that we can engage ever more people into the active ministry of our parish community in the form of outreach, service, community building, spirituality and faith formation. Please pray for our success and discern your own future commitment to this sacred mission.

Grace and Peace to All

Fr Greg