

From the Pastor's Desk:

Today is Pentecost Sunday. We celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples gathered in the upper room. It is a big turning point for the Church - actually it is the birthday of the Christian Church. In our own lives we can remember turning points and events that mark God's intervention into our lives. These may not always be as dramatic as that Pentecost, but Jesus' promise to be with us can be seen in our lives in various ways. However, no matter how dramatic to our eyes, or how simple the movement of the Spirit is in our lives - that power and presence of the Spirit is operating in many ways.

Fr. Ramos and I joined other priests in the Diocese for the annual Presbyteral Assembly this past week. It is a good time to interact with other priests, to pray together, and to be spiritually educated by the speaker that provides reflections for us. This year the speaker spoke to us about St. Paul as a model for pastoral ministry. I have a special affinity for St. Paul myself, and even chose Paul as my name when I was in the monastery (that's right, I was Brother Paul in those days). I hope that the insights that the Lord gave will help enhance our priesthood.

This past week also said goodbye to our 8th grade class at Holy Family Academy. I have to say that I will personally really miss those kids. As they move on with the next part of their lives, they will take with them what the Lord has given them here. We continue to enhance our school so that it can be more and more a force not just of academic instruction, but also of human and spiritual formation for these children as they enter a world filled with many negative influences. The religious and moral lessons that they will take with them will last with them longer than some of their other coursework - and come into play in many areas of life. Please join me in praying for their future happiness and success.

I have received the architectural plans for the handicap renovations. I met with the contractor about some changes that need to be addressed, and told him that I want to get the ball rolling. We have a reception scheduled for newly ordained Deacon Martin Beck this Sunday at 1:30 at Holy Spirit, please feel free to drop in and congratulate him personally. Also, our final weekend with Fr. Ramos is fast approaching. We will have a reception for him on the final Sunday in June at Holy Spirit. Please come to express your thanks for his service and wish him the best in his next assignment. Look for more details.

In addition to the trip to a Bravehearts game planned for this Summer, our social committee is also working to plan a parish picnic, more on this as details are available. I also met with the heads of our ministry to the homebound and hospital ministries. You will find that to give a little time to serve others in the Lord is spiritually enriching, is a great benefit to those being served, and is a great privilege that Jesus has given to us by calling us into his body. Please feel free to contact Ann Mari Laroche (Homebound Ministry) at 978-337-6603 or Deacon Stan (Hospital Ministry) at 978-855-9805 for more information.

Today we celebrate the birthday of the Church. As a parish community of this Church, we strive to continue what started on that day in the upper room. To do this we offer our weekly praise to God, we study to delve more deeply into the mystery of God's love for us, we work to discover how Jesus can be a part of our lives, and we offer our resources and time to serve the world in His name. It is a wonderful way of life, and one of the most enriching and fulfilling things available.

6-9-19

Peace,  
Fr. Steve