

From the Pastor's Desk:

Jesus speaks to us of the path of discipleship. He calls on us to place other things as less important than following him. He tells us that his disciple must take up a cross to carry. We often feel like we are carrying crosses in life - and we are. When we carry the crosses in life with Jesus, when we do this as a disciple following Jesus, then they have meaning. The road to the Lord is paved with difficulties and to travel it we need to let things go. Our world tells us that we should not have to suffer any pains - and certainly not to follow some God. We are told that we need to take care of ourselves and to follow our own wants and needs. In truth people, in doing this we are really following a worldly philosophy and we are obedient to clever and psychologically manipulating advertisements. We devote ourselves to objects, we follow a philosophy of the world that tells us how to think, that tells us what we are supposed to do. In the end we will ALWAYS carry burdens and have pains, no matter which way we follow. Jesus calls us to reject the worldly ways and to follow him. To bring more people into the kingdom - and honestly, to discover the freedom of not being slaves to possessions and worldly philosophies. Jesus' way seems to be restricting, but really it is freeing - and in the end leads us to the ultimate freedom of an eternal life with God in heaven.

We began school at Holy Family Academy last week. There is a great promise in the eyes of these young people, there is a great opportunity to help them to gain the skills they will need to succeed academically and in a profession some day, and also to learn about the important truths of a life following Jesus that will bring them a greater freedom and happiness and connection with God. I also met with Jane at The Caring Place and reaffirmed the importance of this Early Education program that has been a respected fixture in the community for decades. Please encourage families you know to check out these schools and see what they offer in addition to what they can get anywhere else.

Next Sunday is our Parish Picnic. The Social Committee has worked hard on this event, and it promises to be a great time for all. It is nice too to be able to have a time for relaxation and building the relationships in our community. It will be at the P.A.C.C. and you can pack a lunch or take advantage of the full chicken dinner available. There will be games, musical entertainment and also Mass at noon. So please consider coming to Mass there and then joining in on the activities, or stop by any amount of time you are able. More information is in the bulletin and website.

Maura and I met to look at the draft of our Fall Faith Formation Activities. We have a good set of offerings. There will be a series on prayer that Maura, Fr. Miguel, and Myself will facilitate. Also we will have another installment in our Faith and Reason Series where we will look at the hidden (and not so hidden) evidence of God's action in the Universe. We are exploring a talk from an engaging guest speaker on some little known historical events in the life of the church - events which should give us hope for the future. And there will be others as well.

God is present and wants to show us a way to peace and freedom. Join in the journey of the disciple - the rewards outweigh whatever is given up.

Peace,
Fr. Steve