

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

A Thank-You, an Update and a Request to “Save the Date” Thank You. In a recent bulletin, I asked if anyone could help Fr. Thien and me acquire a tabernacle for our rectory chapel. We received several offers of help, including an offer of a beautiful wooden tabernacle, which we accepted. We now have a sacred place to pray before Jesus in our home. Thanks to all who offered to help us. Know that we will pray for you and your needs in our chapel as we seek personally to grow closer to the Lord.

An Update. As of this writing, Fr. Thien and I have visited two homes for the “Meet and Greet” with seventeen more scheduled visits during the span of September to November. This is the opportunity for us priests to get to know the parishioners on a more personal basis, to hear what you love about our parish, and to hear what is on your “wish list” for the parish as we move forward. There are a few more visits in the works. If you would like to host one of these gatherings of 15-20 people or if you would like to join a scheduled group, call us at the rectory and we will try to accommodate you.

“Save the Date.” Our parish will have an Old Fashioned Family Day Picnic on Sunday, October 21, from 1:00-4:00 P.M. at Pontiff Park, Shelter No 6. The Archdiocese actually is celebrating Family Day on September 23, but we are moving the celebration to October 21 to avoid the peak of the storm season and (hopefully) experience some cooler, drier weather. For football fans, the Saints are on the road that Sunday at Baltimore; the kickoff isn't until 3:05 P.M. so there is time to come to the picnic and enjoy the game.

The parish will provide food and drinks and there will be a variety of games for different age groups. There's a rumor that a couple of priests intend to participate in the games! The Home & School Association, Knights of Columbus, Daughters of Isabella and Sharing Program are involved to make this a true community event. If you would like to help out, contact Carol Pritchard at 835-6809 or David McDonald at 496-1171. More details will follow. In the meantime, SAVE THE DATE of Sunday afternoon, October 21, from 1:00-4:00 P.M. to picnic with your St. Francis Parish Family.

Finally, as we find ourselves in the most active part of the hurricane season, may Our Lady of Prompt Succor continue to intercede for our protection.

God bless, Fr. Joe