

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners:

This month we will be reviving a traditional practice and starting a new one. First of all, beginning on May 7th we will have a holy hour from 7 to 8pm on the first Friday of each month. The holy hour will include exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a time for quiet prayer and Benediction. Those of you who have experienced praying before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament know the strength and the peace that it brings. It is also a great way to honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus and our Lord promises that those who honor His Sacred Heart will be given the grace of final perseverance. Coming together to pray quietly before our Lord will bring many graces to our parish. I have seen it happen in parishes that have regular Eucharistic Adoration.

I believe that our community could also be stronger if we had more opportunities to gather together to share our friendship and our prayers. After discussions with a number of parishioners as well as the Parish Pastoral Council, I have decided to try a new initiative next month for the purpose of strengthening the bonds of fellowship in our parish. Once a month, beginning on Saturday, May 15th, interested parishioners will be invited to a supper immediately following the 4pm Saturday Vigil Mass. The main course for the meal as well as beverages will be provided by the parish while parishioners will be asked to bring salads, side dishes and desserts.

At the conclusion of the meal, there will be a discussion about the Scripture readings for the next Sunday's Mass. The gathering will end with a prayer around 7:00pm.

The purpose of these gatherings is to provide our parishioners with another opportunity to come together both socially and for prayer. We have a wonderful parish here but we could all benefit by getting to know our fellow parishioners better. Our gathering together in this fashion also has an important spiritual purpose. Jesus Christ established the Church to be His enduring presence in the world. Our unity and mutual concern should attract others to His Church. This is why strengthening our bonds with our fellow Catholics is important not only for ourselves but also for others.

If this activity is of interest to you, I ask that you email me (rtconley@comcast.net), call the rectory or sign up in the foyer. It is important that we have an accurate count of how many people are coming so that we can have enough food, etc. Also, we do need some volunteers. We need a couple of adults who are willing to work with the children. We also need some folks in the hall before the 4pm Mass to receive side dishes from people attending the Mass. If you are able to help or if you have any questions about these gatherings please don't hesitate to ask. I hope to see you on May 15th

With my prayers,

Fr. Conley