

LETTER FROM FR. DESTON

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am so happy to be serving the parishes of Annunciation of the Lord in Taunton and St. Nicholas of Myra in North Dighton and am grateful for the very warm welcome that Fr. Nunes and I received on our first weekend in our new parish. I am excited to share with you some news about our parish life that I hope will allow us to serve you better and be a help on our collective pilgrimage to the Kingdom.

Firstly, and most importantly, as the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist, are to be the center of our parish life, I am delighted to announce that daily Mass will be celebrated at St. Nicholas of Myra on Monday through Wednesday at 8am and at Annunciation of the Lord on Thursday through Saturday at 8am. Daily celebration of the Eucharist, therefore, will be available every day of the week. The Sunday Mass schedule at Annunciation will remain the same with the Vigil celebrated at 4pm on Saturday, and Sunday Mass at 8:30am. This expanded Mass schedule will allow more opportunities to encounter the Living God and to receive His Body and Blood, which are invaluable aids to our continuing sanctification and salvation.

Secondly, desiring to expand access to and convenience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Fr. Nunes and I will be hearing confessions for 30 minutes before every Mass celebrated at Annunciation of the Lord and at St. Nicholas of Myra. This means that Reconciliation will be available every day of the week in the Taunton Deanery. Frequent reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation allows us to receive the Eucharist more worthily. It makes our hearts more suitable dwelling places for the Divine and allows us to face temptation with strength of will and confidence of faith.

Thirdly, religious education will begin the First Sunday in October. Although still working with our partners at St. Nicholas of Myra on finding a suitable location, registration will begin at Annunciation of the Lord on the weekend of September 11th and 12th. Parents are asked to register their children as soon as possible to ensure that the number of teachers necessary will be able to be recruited. Any parent wishing to be a teacher or to otherwise aid in the religious education of the parish's children is asked to contact Maureen Brawley at (508) 824-6581. The religious education of our children is one of the most important tasks for Annunciation of the Lord parish. I encourage you to please be generous with your talents.

Lastly, please be assured that Fr. Nunes and I are here to serve. We will be with you in the happiest of times and in the saddest times of your life of faith. We look forward to baptizing your children working with you to educate them in the faith. If someone is ill at home, in the hospital, or in a nursing home, please let us know so that if they wish, they can receive a visit and, if appropriate, the Sacrament of the Sick. We stand ready to share your joys, your struggles, and your triumphs in faith. Know of our prayers for you and your families. Please pray for us as well as we endeavor to serve you as best we can. Together may we meet Christ Jesus when He, who is our life, appears in glory. I am proud to be

Sincerely Yours in Christ

Rev. David C. Deston, Jr.