

From Fr. Fleming's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This weekend's celebration of Pentecost marks the end of the seven weeks of the Easter season on the church calendar. In our parish, as in many others, Paschaltide was studded with some sacramental jewels. In four liturgies over two weekends we welcomed young children to the Lord's Table as they received the Eucharist for the first time. These were joyful events for the children, their families and for the whole parish. Just as you make room for guests at the dining room table in your home at Thanksgiving and Christmas, so we make room for newcomers to the altar. You know, our regular weekend Masses run about an hour in length. First Communion Masses run about 5-8 minutes longer: just 5-8 extra minutes out of the 10,080 minutes that are ours every week. What a gracious investment of time and prayer those extra moments offer us!

A few weeks ago Bishop Robert Reed (our regional bishop in the west region of the archdiocese) was here for a spirited celebration of Confirmation for our high school students. Bishop Reed also directs Catholic TV, the archdiocesan television station, and he is a fine speaker. I've seldom received so much positive feedback on a confirmation celebration as I did after this year's event.

Our worship is one of the chief ways we mark our lives as Catholic Christians and we live that out in the feasts and seasons and sacraments of the church year. Following Pentecost we will celebrate Trinity Sunday and then the next week Corpus Christi (feast of the Body and Blood of Christ). I plan to take the time of the homily that weekend (at all the Masses) to review how we worship and how we at Holy Family might improve and enhance the ways in which we pray together. I hope this will be helpful for all of us. Heads-up: I'll be mentioning the importance of arriving on time for Mass so the weekend of May 27 might be one when you don't want to walk in late!

And here's a prayer I wrote and recently post on my blog (ConcordPastor.blogspot.com)

Dear God,

*When I cannot see you,
remind me that you never lose sight of me...*

*When I cannot hear you,
remind me that you never miss a word I pray...*

*When I cannot reach you,
remind me that you hold me in your arms...*

*When I cannot find you,
remind me that you always seek me...*

*When I cannot trust you,
remind me that you never give up on me...*

*And when I cannot, well, whatever -
remind me that you can, you do and you will...*

Amen.