

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

You've heard me announcing at Mass that some folks in the parish need to complete a CORI form. C.O.R.I. stands for Criminal Offender Record Information, which consists of records and data in any communicable form compiled by a Massachusetts criminal justice agency about an identifiable individual that relate to criminal charges, arrests, judicial proceedings, sentencing and incarceration. Why do parish volunteers need to complete this form? It's part of the process used by churches, schools, scouting and sports organizations in protecting children and the elderly.

Over the past weekend, staff members verified CORI forms after all Masses. While we are making progress at getting them done, many still need to be completed. You need to fill out a CORI **each year** if you are involved in the following ministries: **Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Usher, St. Vincent DePaul, Children's Liturgy, Cantor, Eucharistic Minister to the Homebound, Youth Ministry, Faith Formation, and any ministry that has the potential for interaction with children or anyone who works with the elderly.** If in doubt, please call Sheila Spooner at the parish office (978-369-7442) and ask if you should fill out a CORI. Your cooperation is much appreciated and contributes to the safety and well being of the vulnerable in our community.

As you know or will soon find out, there is an item on the Town Meeting Warrant regarding our parish office building at 55 Church Street in West Concord. As I told you about 15 months ago our plan is to sell 55 Church Street to fund a major repurposing of the rectory building in Monument Square as the parish office space. For several months now I have been in serious conversation with Town of Concord officials who are interested in buying 55 Church Street. **No final decisions have yet been made by the parish or the town** but the item is on the Warrant with the hope that by the time of Town Meeting, a plan will have been approved by both the parish and town and ready for a decision by Town Meeting. Closer to that time of Town Meeting I will review this again so that parishioners who are Concord residents will be prepared to vote on this matter in an informed fashion. If you have questions in the meantime, please send them to me (at the parish office: 55 Church Street or by email at: FrAustinFleming@aol.com) and I will respond to them in that review (which will appear here in the bulletin and on the parish website).

A reminder: **The Light Is On For You!** I will be hearing confessions on all the Wednesday nights of Lent from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Since this overlaps with our time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (5:30-7:00 p.m.), please enter by the front doors of the church if you're coming to confession between 6:30 and 7:00.

This is only the **Second Sunday of Lent** but you can be sure that I'm already working on our Holy Week services with other ministries in the parish (music, lectors, sacristans, decorators). So, it's not too early to invite **you** to consider Holy Week. **Palm Sunday** falls this year on April 9. Palm branches will be distributed at all Masses and the Passion, the story of Jesus' suffering and death will be proclaimed in the gospel. You may recall that in past years a group of high school students have joined in proclaiming the **Passion** as a (spoken, not sung) choral fashion. A group of our young people will do that again this year at the Palm Sunday 5:00 p.m. liturgy. We are forming a group of adults to do the same at the Palm Sunday 10:30 liturgy. Most of this involves speaking with the whole group although there are several "solo" parts (Peter, Pilate, a centurion, etc.). If you are interested, see the item in the bulletin for signing up.

In Holy Week we celebrate the **Paschal Triduum**: one feast spread over three days: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. **These are the greatest and most important celebrations of the whole liturgical year!** As I've written before, it's a shame that many Catholics go to their graves without ever having participated in the Church's greatest feasts and celebrations. Might **this** the year when you come to one, two or all three of these services?

Holy Thursday is April 13. At 8:00 that night we celebrate the **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper** including the Washing of Feet. At the end of that Mass there will be a procession with the Eucharist to an altar set up downstairs on the lower level of the church. The church will be open then until midnight for those who want to come and pray with the Lord "on the night before he died."

On **Good Friday** we will have a children's service at 4:00 p.m. This is modeled on the evening liturgy but simplified for children. We will have the **Celebration of the Lord's Passion** at 8:00 p.m. This includes the liturgy of the Word, the solemn Prayers of the Faithful, the veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion.

On Saturday, April 15, we will celebrate the **Easter Vigil** at 8:30 p.m. (This liturgy can begin no earlier than twilight.) The Vigil begins outdoors with the lighting of the new fire followed by a candle light procession with the large Paschal Candle. The liturgy of the Word traces the history of our salvation as found in the scriptures. We will then welcome three adults to the Catholic Church through a profession of faith and Confirmation. These three will receive Communion for the first time at the Vigil.

On **Easter Sunday**, April 16, Mass will be celebrated at 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. (Note that for Easter Sunday only we return to the old Mass schedule to accommodate the many people who will come to worship. We will not, however, celebrate Mass on Easter Sunday evening.)

Sincerely,
Fr. Fleming