

From Fr. Fleming's Desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

If you read the bulletin then you know that the weekend before last we offered a weekend retreat for parishioners - right here in the church. The retreat began on Friday night (6:00 - 8:30 p.m.), ran from 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday and concluded on Monday night with a session from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

The retreat was titled, *Light of the World (LOTW)* and is part of a national parish retreat movement (www.lotwem.org). Our retreat was led by 5 representatives (volunteers) from LOTW, from Massachusetts and out of state. All of these are active in the LOTW retreat program in their home parishes.

The whole retreat was conducted at the church, on the lower level, in the café, meeting area and conference room and in the sanctuary of the upstairs church. The format consisted of talks given by the LOTW team (with one presentation each by our pastoral associate, Elizabeth Smith and me). The talks were followed by small group discussions (men meeting with men, women with women) and a variety of prayer services which included plenty of time for quiet, personal prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the monstrance.

The message of the retreat was simple and direct and consisted of the basic *kerygma* of our faith. *Kerygma* is a Greek word which refers to the basic preaching or proclamation of the gospel message: "Jesus is Lord!" In a sense, then, the content of the retreat message consisted of the basic message of the gospel - shared by fellow Catholic Christians in terms of their own experience, inviting us 15 retreatants to deepen our faith in that same message. The retreat, then, was not so much a time for learning new things about our faith as much as it was for deepening our faith in beliefs we already hold and share. If this sounds simple and not complex that's exactly what it was, but the simplicity only contributed to and enhanced the depth and power of the experience.

LOTW retreats are designed to become part of the life of the parishes in which they are offered. Our retreat was led by a visiting team. Our next retreat will be led by a combination of visiting leaders and men and women who were on our first retreat. Subsequent retreats will be led by HFP parishioners who have shared the LOTW experience.

Austin	Elizabeth	Mike	Val	<u>Ann</u>
Jorge	Pat Gomez	Kathy	Rafael	<u>Bill</u>
Mary Ann	Kristina	Bill	Claire	<u>Jay</u>

Light of the World[®]
Evangelization Process



JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK

HOLY THURSDAY: MAR 29 7:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY: MAR 30

**4:00 PM: Children's Service *All are Welcome!*
& 7:30 PM Mass**

HOLY SATURDAY: MAR 31 8:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY: APR 1 7:30, 9:30, & 11:30 AM
(Please note change in Mass times)