

**NOTHING  
CHANGES  
IF  
NOTHING  
CHANGES**

Speaking of changes... As I wrote to you recently (*go to HolyFamilyConcord.org, click on From the Pastor's Desk, then Letters, then September 10*) our parish will enter a collaborative with St. Irene Parish in Carlisle in June 2019. At that time my assignment as pastor will end and a new pastor will be appointed to serve both Holy Family and St. Irene Parishes. On some days, June 2019 seems a long way off and on other days it feels like it's right around the corner! In either case, I know that change is coming in my life and in the life of the parish, too. With that as background and because a number of people asked me for this, here's a prayer I wrote and used in my homily this past weekend.

Let us pray...

Lord, some things in my life need changing and I wish these changes would happen over night but change comes slowly to me - perhaps because I come slowly to change... Help me change, Lord. Open me to the changes I want to make, to the changes you want me to make in my life... Change me from the inside out, Lord, reboot my heart until it beats in rhythm with yours; change my thinking until my thoughts are in sync with your thoughts, your word and your wisdom... Stretch me, Lord, to be the person you call me to be; stretch me until I'm satisfied with nothing less than being the person you created me to be...

- Open my eyes, Lord, to see your hands at work in my life helping me to change, every day...
- Open my ears to hear your voice guiding me through the changes I need to make...
- Open my mouth, Lord, to pray, to ask for your help with the changes I most need to make...
- Open my mind, Lord, to know and understand what you ask of me  
and how my thinking needs to change...
- Open my hands, Lord, to work for the change that will serve and rescue and lift up others...
- Open me up to changes you see that I need to make in areas of my life  
where I'm presently completely content and not yet aware of changes you'd have me make...
- Open my heart, Lord, to your Holy Spirit shaping, shifting, changing me from within...

So many things in my life need changing, Lord: heal and mend, and reform and repair whatever's wounded and torn, bent and broken in me... Change me, Lord: open and empty and humble my heart for the sake of all whose paths cross mine: help me serve those in need, cheer those in sorrow, comfort those who grieve, stand with those who are alone, and rejoice with those whose hearts are glad...

You emptied yourself, Lord, you humbled yourself on the Cross, becoming obedient even to the point of death. We come now to your table, Lord, where your Spirit changes our gifts of bread and wine, and makes of them your Body and Blood in the Eucharist. With the food of this sacrament, change us, too, Lord, and make of us the people you call us to be.

Amen.