

## ***From the Pastor's Desk***

*I spent this past week at Antiochene Village in Bolivar, PA on retreat with 21 other priests of our diocese and Bishop Mark. Although I was “in charge” since priest retreats come under the purview of my office (Ongoing Formation of the Clergy and Clergy Services), it was a very prayerful and uplifting week for me. In terms of the conferences that were held, the theme focused upon the “Eucharist as the center of Priestly Life and Identity.” They were very well developed, rooted in Scripture, theology, and the teachings of recent popes including Saint John Paul II, Pope Francis, and Pope Leo XIV. The retreat allowed ample time for personal reflection and an opportunity to celebrate a penance service with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration and Benediction (over which I had the pleasure of presiding) and an opportunity for individual celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation with several of the Benedictine Fathers from Saint Vincent Archabbey in nearby Latrobe. We also had time for priestly fraternity each evening with a planned social. This is one of the times that I valued most since most of us are “lone rangers” (that is, we live alone in our parishes), and we do not get to see one another socially. You cannot understand fully, unless you are a priest, how important fraternity among the presbyterate (the priests) is. It is a sacred bond to be cherished. That sense of continuing community, along with important ongoing liturgical, spiritual, pastoral, and intellectual formation are my goals for my position as Director of Ongoing Formation, etc.) Please pray for me in this regard, for if I succeed, our priests, and ultimately all of our members of the faithful throughout the diocese, will be better for it. Also, please pray for all our priests and for more “home grown” vocations to the priesthood. This is not to say that we do not value the generosity of the men who have come to help from other countries, but it certainly would be more than fine to uncover some of the priestly vocations that I am convinced are present here in the diocese.*

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***PARISH HOLY HOUR(S):*** *There will be exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, The Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, from 12:00 Noon until 2:00 PM (Our parish picnic begins at 2:00 PM that afternoon). This Solemnity is one of the most important feasts of the liturgical year. In Europe, East and West, it is celebrated by festivals and processions. The Eucharist is the “source and summit of our lives” as Catholic Christians. Please consider participating in Adoration and/or Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament that day! I believe that we owe the Lord so much for all that he has given to us! Could we not spend even 15 extra minutes with him that day...SUNDAY...THE LORD’S DAY...THE **SOLEMNITY OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST?** He has of course given us the gift of life eternal. The possibility for an eternal present marked by perfect happiness. Could we not give him even 15 minutes on HIS FEAST DAY! There will be more information next week. SAVE HIM THE DATE!!!*



## **SAVE THE DATE!!! VISITATION ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC**

**VISITATION ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC:** The Visitation Parish Annual Summer Picnic is being held Sunday, June 22, from 2:00 PM until 6:00 PM on the parish grounds and at the school gymnasium and cafeteria. There will be lots of food including hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, fresh fruit, other desserts, water, soda, and other *cool foamy adult summer refreshments*, all provided by the parish. There will also be several games onsite. From 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM there will be live entertainment provided by **the Irish Band, Full Kilt (All FREE OF CHARGE!)**. Please consider spending some of your afternoon with us on June 22<sup>nd</sup> for fun and an opportunity to socialize with your fellow Visitation community members. Remember we experience Christ very powerfully in community! Be part of this opportunity to grow in grace and have lots of fun while doing it. **There are sign-up sheets in the back of the church. Even if you are just considering coming to the event, please sign up to assist us in planning for food! Thank You! See you there!**

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### **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Visitation Parish Ice Cream Crawl:**

Visitation Parish will be holding its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ice Cream Crawl during the weekends of the summer months on Saturdays or Sundays (depending upon the weekend) through August 2025 at 7:00 PM. Dates and location will be advertised in the parish bulletin. The next venture of the “crawl” will be this Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at O’Shea’s in Geistown. All are welcome to join in our sweet treat trek. Please contact Kristyn Amendola at 814-248-2942 for more information or to arrange transportation.