

From Pulpit to Pew (Continued)

This text enables us to understand the relationship between the unifying action of the Pasch of Jesus, which is the mystery of the passion, death and resurrection, and the identity of the Church. At the same time, it makes us grateful to belong to the Church, the body of the risen Christ and the one pilgrim people of God journeying through history, which lives as a sanctifying presence in the midst of a still fragmented humanity, as an effective sign of unity and reconciliation among peoples.

From the Pastor's Desk

I hope that by now, everyone has gotten into the swing of their Lenten discipline. As I said on Ash Wednesday, this Lent is supposed to be different. We are preparing for the celebration of the gift of our salvation in Christ Jesus by way of the Paschal Mystery (i.e., the is Christ's Dying and Rising) that we will celebrate at Easter. Again, as I recalled just a few days ago, this is the greatest gift that we have been given, in fact there is nothing to which it can be compared, because it is the gift of life eternal – existing with God in an eternal present where we have no shame for the things that may have not reflected our commitment to God, neighbor, self, or world NOR will we have any anxiety about potential failures in the future. It will be a world of pure happiness and the potential for that has given freely to us by God in the person and event of His Son Jesus Christ. THIS IS NO SMALL MATTER!!! So what are we doing to prepare?

Well, in the announcements last weekend, I listed a number of things that we could do to enhance our spiritual preparations during Lent. Allow me to remind you: perhaps you could spend 15 minutes more in prayer each day, you could try reading the bible, maybe you could come to daily Mass at least once or twice a week (especially if you are retired), perhaps you could come for part or all of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays and/or Fridays, maybe you could join us for Tuesday evening rosary, maybe you could come to Stations of the Cross at 3:00 PM on Fridays, hopefully you will come to one of all of the four special devotions that we are bringing to the parish during the Lenten Season (which will include veneration of the Shroud of Turin and a presentation on a most sacred relic of the face of Jesus {see the advertisement in the main

vestibule of the Church})...the opportunities are endless. Again, this Lent has to be different. Celebrate it as if it were the last one you could ever celebrate again.

Last week I believe that I shared with you that I was going to have very important medical appointment this past Thursday. I did indeed have that appointment, and I did receive some important news regarding my health. I have to wait for some confirmation of some details this week, so next week I will be sharing the results of that appointment with you. Thank you for your prayer regarding this matter.

I want to encourage everyone to please consider patronizing our Lenten Fish Frys. This is a very important event in the life of our parish. As I said earlier this month, this Fish Fry needs to be extremely successful especially in light of the uncertain situation with our school building. Remember that the financial stability of our parish is the responsibility of all of us.

There is one final matter that I need to address this week, and it is the fact that far too many people are leaving Mass early. I need to remind **everyone**, that to fully meet the Sunday obligation, one must be present for Mass in its entirety. **Mass begins with the singing of the entrance hymn and ENDS with the final verse of the closing hymn.** On Ash Wednesday, as I approached the back of the Church at the end of Mass at **12:53 PM** (48 minutes after Mass began) the last several pews of the Church were empty and people were bowling me over before I reached the back of the Church. Not only is that rude to me as the presider, but also, and more importantly, why would you walk out before this saving meal, the sacrifice of your salvation was ended??? It makes absolutely no sense. What is so darn important that you cannot give God the whole time that He asks of you, which is almost never even one hour in length? If you cannot stay for the whole Mass, think about it, why do you come at all? Over the past six months or so, the problem has become increasingly worse, so I, in good conscience, could not let it go on any longer without mentioning something. SO please, the next time you have the urge to leave Church early, for any reason other than in emergency, please give it a second thought. Christ didn't give a second thought in dying and rising for YOUR salvation. Give Him the same consideration!!! Thank you!!!