

# ~From the Administrator~

June 26, 2010

Dear Parish Family,

This is my last weekend as Administrator of St. Joseph the Worker. I want to say "Thank you!" to everyone who has helped me in any way ... to all the people who sit on various councils, to the staff, to the music ministry, to the altar servers, to the lectors, to the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion ... to EVERYONE. I came to Beal City seven months ago, and you welcomed me as family. And so, I leave as a son, brother, father ... heading off to my new assignment in Alma and St. Louis.

Highlights of those seven months are the MANY "Pastoral Firsts" that I experienced here at St. Joseph the Worker in my first year of priesthood ... first Christmas, first Holy Week, first Easter, first altar dedication, first First Communion, first First Penance, first Confirmation class. I will always remember going down the slide and getting soaked, the infinite number of high fives and knuckle bumps on the playground and in the school hallway, training altar servers, and the school auction. Each grade had its specific highlight: the 2nd grade pizza party, the Memorarae being memorized by 4th and 6th grades, snake dancing with 5th grade singing that song I don't know, Art Reach with 3rd grade, caterpillars turning into butterflies in 1st grade, and all the fun in Kindergarten!

While it's sad to leave, there's always joy in returning for a meal, or a visit. I still need to get up in the bell tower and see the bells up-close and personal. I know several of our families have relatives in the Alma area. So, let's not be strangers!

If in my newness, or through my own carelessness or neglect I have somehow offended or upset anyone, please forgive me and accept my apology. I've tried to do my best, and that's all I've got. These last seven months I've repeated over and over again, "I'm not sure what I'm doing, but I'll do my best."

I'd like to extend my special thanks to Barb Schafer and the Vacation Bible School volunteers, parents, students, and participants who made this year's VBS a splashing success. I was able to join in some of the activities in-between trucking boxes of my personal goods down to my new residence.

I'll leave you with a poem written during the 8th century by a Chinese poet:

Quietly the wait is at an end,  
The days were full, but now I have to go.  
And as I go I smell the fragrant fields,  
Grieving to depart from many friends.  
Who was there who helped me on life's way?  
Understanding friends are few in life.  
I see that I must now be on my own,  
And close again the gate of my old home.

— Meng Haoran



God bless you and keep you. Thank you! Let us pray for each other!

Fr. David

# PASTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, PAROCHIAL VICARS

Most Catholics have grown up in parishes where the terms pastor referred to the priest primarily responsible for the parish, and assistant pastor or associate pastor referred to his assistants. Sometimes the term curate was even used for the assistant pastors, derived from the French cure (meaning "one who exercises care of or cure for the souls"); in France, cure actually designated the pastor, while in England and America, it designated his assistants.

Since the 1917 edition of the Code of Canon Law, and especially since the promulgation of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, the technical terms used and becoming more familiar are pastor, parochial vicar and administrator.

Examining the meaning of these terms. The bishop appoints the pastor as "the proper shepherd" of the parish. (The word *pastor* in Latin means "shepherd.") The pastor, mindful that he is to exercise his authority as an extension of the bishop and in the example of Christ, the Good Shepherd, must care for the souls of the faithful entrusted to him. He must fulfill his duties to teach, to sanctify and to govern the faithful with the cooperation of the priests, deacons, religious and lay members of his parish. These duties include the preaching of the Word of God in its entirety; delivering catechetical instruction in the truths of the faith in accord with the magisterium of the Church; fostering charitable works and promoting social justice; encouraging prayer within the home and the parish through good devotions; evangelizing those who have left the practice of the faith or those who do not profess the true faith; and most importantly, nourishing the faithful through the sacraments, particularly through frequent reception of the holy Eucharist and penance. A special emphasis is placed on

the pastor's obligation to provide for the Catholic education of his people, particularly children and young adults, and ensuring that the most holy Eucharist is the center of parish life. In all, a pastor must be a priest "distinguished for his sound doctrine and integrity of morals, and endowed with a zeal for souls and other virtues".

When a parish is "vacant," meaning that the pastor has retired, been transferred to another assignment, or is incapable of exercising his duties as a pastor, the bishop must appoint as soon as possible a parochial administrator. In general, an administrator has the same duties and scope of authority as a pastor. The bishop in time may decide to appoint the administrator as the pastor. One interesting note here: a bishop may transfer or remove an administrator at any time; whereas, a pastor does have certain rights protected by canon law which could cause some "intrigue" in the interactions with his bishop.

In larger parishes, parochial vicars are assigned by the bishop to assist the pastor in the care of the faithful. The office is defined as follows: "Parochial vicars are priests who render their services in pastoral ministry as co-workers with the pastor in common counsel and endeavor with him and also under his authority". Given the size of some parishes, parochial vicars are often essential in helping the pastor fulfill his obligations for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the parish.

While pondering these terms — pastor, administrator and parochial vicar — and their "job descriptions," all of the faithful should pray for their parish priests each day that they may be good priests who reflect in their lives, Jesus, the true, eternal Priest.

*Adapted from an article by Fr. William P. Saunders*

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### **Saint Cyril of Alexandria**

**June 27**

Saint Cyril was born in 370 and lived a monastic life. He was ordained a priest and succeeded his uncle as bishop of Alexandria in 412. He had a preeminent role at the Council of Ephesus; he fought bravely against the doctrines of Nestorius, and wrote many learned works explaining and defending the Catholic faith. Cyril died in 444.



### **Saint Irenaeus**

**June 28**

Saint Irenaeus was born around the year 130. Educated at Smyrna, he became the disciple of Saint Polycarp, bishop of that city. In the year 177 he was ordained a priest at Lyons in

France and shortly thereafter was made bishop of that city. He composed works defending the Catholic faith against errors of the Gnostics, and it is said that he received the martyr's crown around the year 200.



### **Saints Peter and Paul**

**June 29**



### **First Martyrs of the Church of Rome**

**June 30**

In the first persecution against the Church, begun by the emperor Nero after the burning of Rome in 64, many of the faithful were tortured and slain. The pagan writer Tacitus testifies to these events in his work the

*Annales*, as does Clement, bishop of Rome, in his letter to the Corinthians.



### **Blessed Junipero Serra**

**July 1**



### **Saint Thomas the Apostle**

**July 3**

Saint Thomas is remembered for his incredulity concerning Christ's resurrection from the dead. When confronted by the risen Lord, his disbelief gave way to belief and he proclaimed the Easter faith of the Church: "My Lord and my God!" He is said to subsequently preached the Gospel to the people of India.