

~From the Administrator~

Dear Parish Family,

May 16, 2010

Congratulations to our new deacons, ordained on Friday at St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral in Saginaw. For those of us who were able to attend, it was a beautiful liturgy. For myself, it always brings to memory my own ordination to the diaconate 18 months ago, and to the priesthood 11 months ago. Please pray that our newly ordained may be open to the graces of the sacrament of Holy Orders, and "hit the ground running" in the service of God's holy people.

It is another "pastoral first" for me as a priest to have to think in multiple places at once. I had the occasion to visit my new assignment in Alma and St. Louis this past week. Please pray for me as I continue to "bi-locate" in mind and spirit as I transition into my new assignment.

Also, please continue to pray for Father Patrick Jankowiak, the incoming pastor at St. Joseph the Worker in Beal City. I can't emphasize enough the action of grace that your prayers bring to a priest.

On Thursday, I had the occasion to bless religious articles for the students at St. Joseph the Worker School. This has made me think about your needs - namely any religious articles that you may have in the home that may not have been blessed. Please feel free to approach me during the week at the parish or after any of the Masses should you want to have anything blessed.

We will continue to pray the Rosary before all of the Masses both on weekends and during the week. Please begin praying approximately 25-30 minutes before the scheduled time of Mass. The Rosary is a "little Gospel" in that the 20 mysteries of the Rosary are associated with events from Jesus' conception at the Annunciation, and all through His Life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.

Let us continue to pray for the needs of the parish - especially invoking Mary's powerful intercession during this month of May. See you at church, at school, in town, or on the playground! God bless you!

Fr. David

WORD OF THE WEEK: CONTEMPLATION

con·tem·pla·tion

Pronunciation: \,kän-təm-'plā-shən, -tem-\

Function: noun

Date: 13th century

1 a : concentration on spiritual things as a form of private devotion;

1 b : a state of mystical awareness of God's being.

The word contemplation comes from the Latin root *templum* (from Greek *temnein*: to cut or divide). It means separating something from its environment and enclosing it in a sector. Contemplation is the Latin translation of Greek 'theory' (*theoria*). In a religious sense it is usually a type of prayer or meditation.

THE HOLY ROSARY

The Rosary (from Latin *rosarium*, meaning "rose garden" or "garland of roses") is a popular and traditional Catholic devotion. The term denotes both a set of prayer beads and the devotional prayer itself, which combines vocal or silent prayer and meditation. The prayers consist of repeated sequences of the Lord's Prayer followed by ten Hail Mary's and a Glory Be; followed by the Fatima Prayer. Each of these sequences is known as a decade. Each decade is accompanied by meditation on one of the Mysteries of the Rosary, which are events in the lives of Jesus Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The traditional 15 Mysteries of the Rosary were standardized, based on the long-standing custom, by Pope St. Pius V in the 16th century. The mysteries are grouped into three sets: the joyful mysteries, the sorrowful mysteries, and the glorious mysteries. In 2002, Pope John Paul II announced five new optional mysteries, the luminous mysteries, bringing the total number of mysteries to 20.

Pope John Paul II placed the rosary at the very center of Christian spirituality and called it "among the finest and most praiseworthy traditions of Christian contemplation."

Saints and popes have emphasized the meditative and contemplative elements of the rosary and provided specific teachings for how the rosary should be prayed, for instance the need for "focus, respect, reverence and purity of intention" during rosary recitations and contemplations.

Saints have stressed the importance of meditation and contemplation. Scriptural meditations on the rosary build on the Christian tradition of *Lectio Divina*, (divine reading) as a way of using the Gospel to start a dialog between the soul and God. Padre Pio, who was devoted to the rosary, said: "Through the study of books one seeks God; by meditation one finds Him."

References to the rosary have been part of a number of reported Marian Apparitions spanning several centuries. The reported messages from these apparitions have influenced the spread of rosary devotions worldwide.

According to tradition, the rosary was given to Saint Dominic in an apparition by the Blessed Virgin Mary in the year 1214 in the church of Prouille. This Marian apparition received the title of Our Lady of the Rosary. In the 15th century it was promoted by Blessed Alanus de Rupe (Alan of the Rock), a learned Dominican priest and theologian, and established the "15 rosary promises" and started many rosary confraternities.

Rosary beads are at times used to say the Chaplet of Divine Mercy introduced by Saint Faustina Kowalska. These prayers use rosary beads, but their words and format do not correspond to the usual mysteries.

Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Nativity, The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple.

Luminous Mysteries

The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, The Wedding at Cana, Jesus' Proclamation of the Kingdom of God, The Transfiguration, The Institution of the Eucharist.

Sorrowful Mysteries

The Agony in the Garden, The Scourging at the Pillar, The Crowning with Thorns, The Carrying of the Cross, The Crucifixion.

Glorious Mysteries

The Resurrection, The Ascension, The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, The Assumption of Mary, The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

