

~From the Administrator~

Dear Parish Family,

May 9, 2010

First and foremost - HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! to mothers, grandmothers, and great grandmothers! May God pour out His blessings upon each and every one of you!

Thank you to Dave Faber who built the stand used by the sixth graders in last Thursday's May Crowning and Procession outdoors. The students from our school were very prayerful as we sang Marian hymns and prayed for Our Lady's intercession. The flowers they brought to honor her are in vases around the statue of the Blessed Mother in the sanctuary.

Sign up in the gathering area as we continue scheduling photo sessions in June for our pictorial directory. If you have any photos that may be useful of events at our parish over the past few years, please contact the office.

Congratulations to Hannah Steffke, a student at St. Joseph the Worker School who won the annual Gratiot-Isabella and Clare-Gladwin RESD Regional Spelling Bee. Good job, Hannah! We are all very proud of you!

The sixth graders are making "BB Roller-coasters" out of plastic tubing and wooden guides. You may see them taped to the walls throughout the school. I'm reminded of my engineering studies in Physics. Stop by the school and see their hard work. The fourth graders have completed their training as Altar Servers. Sometime in the near future, we will have a blessing and installation for those who choose to serve at the altar on a regular basis.

Thank you to those who have come early to pray the Rosary before the Masses. Anyone is welcome to come and pray. There are brief instructions on how to pray the Rosary on the reading stand in the gathering area. This would be a great way for our Confirmation and First Communion students to break in their new Rosaries.

This coming week on Friday afternoon, four of our seminarians will be ordained to the Order of Deacon. Our own Marcel Portelli; as well as Eddie Dwyer, Nate Harburg, and Bob Schikora. A friend's mother always encouraged us to pray our priests on toward more and more holiness. I know your prayers have helped me in a big way. Keep praying for priests!

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: SACERDOTAL

sac·er·do·tal (sas' - ər - dōt' -l) *adjective*

1. of priests or the office of priest; priestly.
2. characterized by belief in the divine authority of the priesthood.

[Etymology: ME sacerdotale < MFr < L sacerdotalis < sacerdos, priest < sacer, sacred + -dos < IE base *dhe-, to do]

POPE SAYS: SUPPORT PRIESTS ESPECIALLY IN MOMENTS OF DIFFICULTY

VATICAN CITY, 5 MAY 2010 (VIS) - In today's general audience, which was celebrated in St. Peter's Square, the Pope focused his remarks on the priest's mission to sanctify humankind.

"Sanctifying a person means putting that person in contact with God", said the Pope, noting how "an essential part of a priest's grace is his gift, his task to establish such contact. This comes about through the announcement of the Word of God, ... and particularly intensely in the Sacraments".

"Over recent decades", he went on, "various schools of thought have tried to make the aspect of announcement prevail in the priest's mission and identity, separating it from sanctification. It has often been affirmed that there is a need to go beyond merely sacramental pastoral care".

"Ordained ministers", the Pope explained, "represent Christ, God's envoy, they ... continue His mission through the 'Word' and the 'Sacrament', which are the two main pillars of priestly service". In this context he identified the need "to reflect whether, in certain cases, having undervalued the faithful exercise of *'munus sanctificandi'* has not perhaps led to a weakening of faith in the salvific effectiveness of the Sacraments and, in the final analysis, in the real action of Christ and His Spirit, through the Church, in the world".

"It is, therefore, important to promote appropriate catechesis in order to help the faithful understand the value of the Sacraments. But it is equally necessary, following the example of the saintly 'Cure of Ars', to be willing, generous and attentive in giving the faithful the treasures of grace that God has placed in our hands, treasures of which we are not masters but custodians and administrators. Especially in our own time - in which on the one hand, the faith seems to be weakening and, on the other, there is a profound need and widespread search for spirituality - it is necessary for each priest to remember that ... missionary announcement and worship are never sepa-

rate, and that he must promote a healthy sacramental pastoral care in order to form the People of God and help them to fully experience the liturgy ... and the Sacraments as gratuitous gifts of God, free and effective aspects of His action of salvation".

The Pope went on to highlight how "each priest knows he is a tool necessary for God's salvific action, but nonetheless just a tool. This awareness must make him humble and generous in administering the Sacraments, respecting the canonical norms but also profoundly convinced that his mission is to ensure that mankind, united to Christ, can offer itself to God as a living and holy sacrifice acceptable to Him".

Addressing himself directly to priests the Holy Father encouraged them "to practice liturgy and worship with joy and love". He also renewed his call "to return to the confessional, as a place in which to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but also as a place in which 'to dwell' more frequently, that the faithful may find mercy, counsel and comfort, feel themselves to be loved and understood by God, and experience the presence of Divine Mercy alongside the real presence in the Eucharist".

"I would also like to invite each priest to celebrate and to live the Eucharist intensely", said Benedict XVI. Priests "are called to be ministers of this great Mystery, in the Sacrament and in life".

Likewise, "it is indispensable to strive after the moral perfection which must dwell in each authentically priestly heart", because "there is an example of faith and a witness of sanctity that the People of God expect from their pastors".

