


Letter from our Pastor

Father Jose has received his Green Card. He is very happy! We should also be happy for him. We thought that he would have gotten it last year, so we did get an extra year from him. For that I am very grateful! We were fortunate to have him for his full, five year term. I am grateful to the Diocese for helping with that process.

A priest is not a person we hoard, but a person we share. A priest is not just a dispenser of the sacraments, as important as that role is! A priest adds something special to the parish by his personality. I have priests who will be able to celebrate Mass for us. But, Fr. Jose was with us full time, so he added much by his gentle, spiritual nature.

It does not look like as if we will be getting a replacement. The shortage of priests is now really having an impact on the diocese. You need eight thousand people in the parish to have an associate, we are no where near that number.

Father Jose will probably be leaving for the Evansville Diocese in Indiana toward the end of June. He has classmates in that diocese. Hopefully, we will be fully functioning as a parish by then so we can host a farewell party.

Easter is very much about eternal life. Eternal - Divine begins at Baptism. Knowing that gives us a tremendous amount of peace even in this world. But it is in the next world that we experience a full, complete union with God. That is when we will see his face, that is called "The Beautiful Vision". I like the way St. Basil the Great puts it, "God has prepared for us a place of eternal rest where there will be joy so intense, as to surpass all human imagination."

During these tough days of the pandemic, we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and heaven. These are the days that we experience much pain. We sacrifice and worry about one another and the future. It's good to keep in mind a prayer of St. John Neumann, "Lord, there is nothing that can happen today that you and I cannot handle." Continue to pray and look out for one another. We do have the St. Dismas Ministry here, so if we can help, let us know.

I don't like to have to bring it up, but we still have ongoing expenses here at St. Thomas. Some parishioners have been sending their donations in. I am aware of the financial strain and other strains the Coronavirus has had on you, but if you can continue to help, I would appreciate it.

We all miss being with one another at St. Thomas. It has been hard! But, eventually we will be together again and worship God. He will bring good out of this mess, you can count on that.

On behalf of the parish staff, we wish that you experience the Peace of God this Easter, in the midst of the pandemic.

God Bless,

Fr. Ed