

July 29, 2018

From Fr. Jim . . .

A Day of Rest: Last Sunday's Gospel reminded us that Jesus and the disciples needed to get away to a deserted place to reflect on their ministry and to rest for a while. Every minister and disciple of the Lord needs to do this.



Sunday is still considered a day of rest from our labors for Christians. This follows the creation account in the Book of Genesis when on the 7th day the Lord rested from all that he had done. In the Church's long tradition and history, the Sabbath was always considered a day of rest although the strict legalities and restrictions on what was considered to be work have lessened for some people of faith. Resting on Sunday and using it for the most part as a day of prayer, relaxation and enjoyment is still a way to "keep holy the Lord's day." Treating Sunday in this way, prepares one for the rigors of work and ministry for the upcoming week and can help one regain focus and balance in life. It also helps to build relationships, and promotes quality time with friends and family as well as with God and the church family.

This too gives good cause for taking vacations as long as they are a time for rest and relaxation. I am sure that many of us have taken vacations whereupon when we return home we feel that we need to take a vacation from our vacation! It is so important to take time to smell the roses and to do things that we enjoy doing and to have fun with family, friends and others. May God not only bless the work of our hands but also our time to rest, reflect and relax.

A Reflection on the Eucharist: For the next five weeks, we will be hearing from the Gospel of John. Each Gospel has a Eucharistic theme. The following reflection was given by Pope Benedict XVI as a homily which was delivered by satellite for the closing of the forty-ninth International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec June 22, 2008. *"The Eucharist is our most beautiful treasure. It is the Sacrament par excellence; it ushers us into eternal life in advance; it contains the entire mystery of our salvation; it is the source and summit of the action and the life of the Church as the Second Vatican Council recalled (cf. Sacrosanctum Concilium, no. 8). It is therefore particularly important that pastors and faithful be constantly committed to deepening their knowledge of this great Sacrament. In this way each one will be able to affirm his faith and carry out his mission in the church and in the world ever better, remembering that the Eucharist bears fruit in one's personal life, in the life of the Church and the world."*

The Eucharist is the "source and summit" of the action and the life of the Church. The overall goal of the entire prayer of the Eucharist is to affirm our faith and to be able to carry out the Lord's mission in the church and in the world. It is still the challenge of the faithful to live out our faith as best as we can. Let us pray that the Eucharist will always transform us into the Body of Christ for today's world and let us be forever grateful for the presence of our Savior who is always in our midst.

Staying Cool: The fans in the church and in the sanctuary are very important and necessary for our prayer on these hot summer days. They are set strategically in the sanctuary and in the church for the Sunday Eucharist. There is good movement of air flow throughout the church and one doesn't have to be directly in front of the fan to feel the air. For this reason, I ask that no one move the fans and please watch the children. These are not to be played with and we can't always afford to fix them when they break or replace them. So moving them or touching them as little as possible will promote the longevity of their use and help all of us to be more comfortable praying at Eucharist on the weekend. Also, they can be moved during the week, but I ask that they stay in church and not be taken to the basement. Please remember the place for the fans and always return them to their proper place immediately when the event is over. And the units that are in the back rooms of church function best with the door closed but there is a floor fan in each of those rooms now to assist these units. Many, many thanks.