

September 8, 2019

From Fr. Jim . . .



**Surrender unto the Lord:** In 1979, Mother Theresa of Calcutta, India won the Nobel Peace Prize. The nominating committee was asked what particularly qualified her for such a prestigious award. The committee came up with a very impressive list of facts of all the people she had helped: hundreds of lepers, orphans, children and the poor with schools and hospitals and clinics. The numbers were staggering and the committee knew right away that no one else could be more deserving.

When Mother Theresa received the award, she was asked what specifically she did that promoted world peace. Interestingly she did not quote any statistics or facts. She said that every day and quite often throughout the day, she makes it a point to surrender her will and entire being to the Lord. Then when she fills up with joy and the peace of God's love and presence for her, she has so much to give to others!

Is this not the correct formula for peace in our hearts, homes and in the world? Is this not true peace and peace that only God can give?

When I was growing up and being taught how to pray all of the important and traditional prayers of our faith, I learned and memorized The Morning Offering. This prayer is a prayer of surrendering oneself to the Lord – to the Lord's will, ways and love as one begins the day and so that everything one does throughout the entire day can be to the praise and glory of God. In this way, one can fill up with God's joy and peace and will have so much to give to others.

However one prays The Morning Offering, formally or in one's own words, this is a prayer that can be said often throughout the entire day. The numbers of people with whom we want to live in peace reside in our families, workplace, market place, neighborhoods, cities, schools, sports fields and arenas, committees, groups, organizations and churches. For the more we fill up with God's joy and peace, the more we will have to share with others, too. Mother Theresa, pray for us!

**Parish Picnic at Stricker's Grove:** On Friday, September 13, we will join Our Lady of Visitation Parish at Stricker's Grove for a parish picnic of food, rides and games for the kids, a great evening of meeting new faces and a wonderful opportunity for our parishes to gather together just to have fun! The picnic starts at 5pm. If anyone needs a ride or can help drive, please meet in the parish parking lot at 4:30pm. Thanks so much and come and have a great time. Again, we offer our gratitude to Our Lady of Visitation Parish for inviting us to the picnic.