

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – JUNE 4, 2017

Dear Parishioners and Families,

In the days of the Old Testament, the days of Abraham, Moses, and the prophets, the Israelite people came to know one God. This was a God of power and might who established the Israelite people as His Chosen People, led them out of slavery and through the desert to the Promised Land, returned them from exile from Babylon. He promised them a new leader called the Messiah. The Messiah (Christ) would be new and greater than Moses.

In the New Testament we learn that this God of power and might is now called Our Father. His great emissary is Jesus, the Son of the Father, who has come to give us a vision of our future and a way to achieve it. His sojourn on earth would be relatively short, perhaps about 33 years, and would end in death, but lead to resurrection. This person, Jesus Christ, then ascends to the Father in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Finally, Our Father sends the human race the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a quiet force, a breath of life, a guide or “Sherpa” on the mountain climb to the summit which is the Kingdom of Heaven. Today on the Feast of Pentecost we rejoice with the Apostles with the coming of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church and the life of each individual.

The Holy Spirit resembles the quiet influence of our mothers in our life. Mothers are often quiet, prayerful, and patient. A good mother’s example pervades the household. The Holy Spirit in the Eastern Churches is often looked upon as a feminine element of God, strong, influencing, and quiet. One must often be quiet to hear the gentle expressions and the kindly refreshing breath of the Holy Spirit.

Our Recent Mission

Our parish is deeply grateful to Fr. Ray Collins, C.Ss. R. who gave the inspiring Mission to St. Joseph and St. Peter of the Fields. The Church encourages us to count on the intercessions of saints and holy ones who have gone before us. In this vein we remembered St. John Neumann’s visit in 1841. We remember the more than 4,000 persons buried in our two cemeteries and are now at rest with the Lord. They form the Church Triumphant and you may be certain they do not forget those that are still on the journey.

The Parish Finance Committee and the Parish Council

Several weeks ago the two groups met and reviewed the status of the church and the status of our finances. The Parish Council gave advice to the Administrator as we were then preparing for the Mission. They noted the 90th anniversary of the Grotto since the establishment in 1927. Bishop George Murry, S.J. will come to celebrate this 90th anniversary on August 14th. The Finance Committee reviewed the financial report and found the finances in good order. Both groups approved of the restoration taking place on the first floor of the office/rectory. Both groups were very pleased with the projected increase in enrollment within our school. We are now expecting to have an additional thirty students over our last year’s enrollment. The emphasis is on superior education blended with faith.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
June 4, 2017