

From the Pastor's Desk:

Jesus speaks to us of the two great commandments. Love of God and love of neighbor. In our day to day life it can be easy to let either (or both of these slip). Loving God with our heart, mind, soul, and strength involves us putting some time aside for God (in private prayer and coming to worship at Mass), and stretching in faith to believe all that God has said. The result of loving God is that we see the presence of God more powerfully in our lives and can enter into that relationship of Love God wants to have with each one of us. Loving neighbor as self is tricky - especially with all the people we can easily dislike. But love is a choice, love is a decision, love does not only go up and down depending on how other people treat us. We all struggle with that and can choose to withhold love based upon conditions of how people act towards us. But this is not Jesus' way; love is a package deal. The love of God (who is love) must flow in our heart. It must flow out to those who it is difficult to love, it must flow out to the God we cannot see (except in the hidden presence of Jesus in the Eucharist). The benefit of this is a closer relationship with God and others and a deeper reception of God's love. This is worth it.

One wonderful example of the movement of God's love in and out of human hearts happened at the woman's day of reflection this past Saturday. Fr. Ramos and I stopped by to join the ladies for lunch, and I was impressed with what I saw. There was a feeling of peace, a feeling of reflection, and a spirit of love in the room. Several of the woman have shared with me that it was a very enriching experience. I am so happy to see this wonderful fruit the Spirit had brought to this group of women. The hours of planning and prayer that the team invested opened the way for the Lord to enter. We look forward to providing more such opportunities in the future.

I know that some have been questioning the progress on the handicap access for the churches. This has certainly not moved as fast as I would have liked. I have been in contact with the architect this past week, and received some more information. We hope to have the needed plans and permits and to continue to look at how to fund this. There is a separate account set up that funds donated for this purpose have been placed in. You may donate to this effort through the office if you would like. When we get the plans, we will know what it will cost and can move forward.

After discussions with the office of the Diaconate it appears all but certain that Martin Beck (who has been ministering with us as a Instituted Acolyte) will be assigned to Annunciation Parish upon his ordination as a Deacon this summer. All the feedback I have received from people has been positive, and I think he will continue to be a wonderful addition to our parish. The Deacons and myself will be further discussing their roles here in the parish, and what changes may be on the horizon as we reorganize a bit. I will keep you informed. I have asked Martin to facilitate our capital projects committee to examine the needed repairs and improvements that we need to figure out how to complete. More on this when their report comes in. Please continue to pray as we work to move forward, more good things to come.

Peace,
Fr. Steve