

From the Pastor's Desk:

Jesus tells us that to do the work of God is to believe in the one that God has sent (that is, Jesus). Jesus comes to us in many ways and teaches us many things. Often we can hear the things he teaches and still not realize that we are not quite following that way. It is easy to get stuck into ways of thinking, into beliefs that our greeds or angers are justified - but Jesus teaches us a way of love. It is a great way through which the work of God is done in the world - and we are all called to reflect on the example of Jesus and what he taught and to build ourselves up in that love in which the work of God is accomplished.

My retreat last week was a wonderful opportunity to live again amid the community of monks that I used to be a part of - a community based on praying and working together while living the teaching of understanding, love, faithfulness to each other, and patience that Jesus has called us to. It was nice to have a break from the day to day issues so that I could pray and reflect on where the Lord is calling us - and me. I am aware that there are still tensions remaining in our community and some old hurts that exist (although these have lessened significantly). I have prayed during this week that we all continue to find a way to be able to live more and more together in a community of love. After my own self-examination I am resolved to follow the Lord to continue to build that community of love in which we do the work of God by following Jesus.

I attended a meeting of the committee for the Bazaar met before I left. The preparations for this event (October 12-14th) are in full swing. I also looked in before leaving on the preparations for the Parish Picnic and Ice Cream Social (August 12th) which I am looking forward to. The week coming I will be meeting with ministry heads to see the progress in development of their areas (more ways to join in the work of God for everyone is available there), and we will be having both a School Board and Pastoral Council meeting this week. Fr. Ramos will be away this week coming for a well-deserved vacation and I plan to follow his example the week after that. Mrs. Tavaska and I have agreed upon the hiring of some wonderful new faculty for the school - they are energetic and committed and I am sure that the parents and students will be pleased with them. The number of new students entering the school is on the rise, and this is encouraging - please pass the word about our school and encourage others to take a look.

In pastoral Council the coming week we will be discussing the healing and dedication Masses to commemorate the church buildings that have been sold, and will be tying up some loose ends about issues that we have been prayerfully considering for a few months (such as signs, mission, activities, and future directions). Healing and living together in a community of love is a process. We are moving in this and with the help of the Lord Jesus we will continue to grow. Have a blessed remainder of the summer months.

God Bless,

Fr. Steve