

September 3, 2006 – Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

"All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights..." James 1:17

† Servant Leader †

Welcome Fr. Jeronimo F. Marcelo

We receive with great joy the news that Bishop Weigand has appointed Fr. Jeronimo F. "Ron" Marcelo as Parochial Vicar for Holy Family Parish. He will join us on Tuesday, September 5, in service of the Lord and the faith community of Holy Family.

Fr. Ron is a delightful man of sweet and joyful personality, great experience, familiar with the world and many cultures, fluent in English, Spanish and Italian. I am sure he will share his life experience with us as time allows in the next few weeks. I have enjoyed meeting with him and getting to know him.

I am delighted he is with us to replace our dear Fr. Santiago who, no doubt, is still missed. One advantage Fr. Ron will have is to be here full time all week except for his day off. Fr. Santiago had 2 days of diocesan commitments, so Fr. Ron will have those days for ministry at Holy Family. He and I have discussed ministry in general with special emphasis on areas that are especially important.

It has been a long period since I returned from Rome and had all the responsibility here alone. However, it was the best month possible to do this as I did not have any trips outside the parish. Starting in September this will go back to normal so Fr. Ron will have much to do for morning Masses, funerals, Quinceañeras, etc. I know he will do great and you will all get a chance to know him well.

Being a native of the Philippines, serving in Mexico, Spain and Italy, speaking many languages, Fr. Ron will be most welcome in Holy Family where he can minister to our many cultural groups. His excellent command of English and Spanish will be clear to our people.

I know Fr. Ron will receive a great welcome from Holy Family and we will all work with him for the glory of God and building up of our parish family. I look forward to our ministry together and sharing the priests' house with him in love and service of our parishioners. We are grateful to Bishop Weigand for this appointment as soon as it was possible for him to do so, satisfying all necessary requirements. Thank you for your understanding in the time since Fr. Santiago left. Let us pray for a blessed ministry for Fr. Ron at Holy Family.

PRAYER CORNER

Please remember in your prayers:

Barbie Adorno, Peter Alvarez, Marcel Arnal, Mary Avila, Jack Barca, Pam Bardwil, Cody Bartley, Ray Bechler, Teresa Bennett Smith, Charles Black, Jill Boyd, Shirley Bryant, Bernard Burke, Joe Celeya, Bob Cleveland, Sue Cotner, Darren Crose, James Crutcher, Julie Desrochers, Maria Dixon, John Dooney, Bonnie Eldridge, Andrew Flores, Loretta Francescon, Frances & Leo Girard, Evelyn Gonsalves, Robert Gonzaga, Manuel Guerra, Max Guerra, Charlene Gutierrez, Rick Gutierrez, Eric Hayes, Jason Hayes, Stanley Hayes, Eddie Hoffman, Randy Kennedy, Kimberly Kolodzie, Ian Larmore, Maria Mamauog, Maria Martinez, Earl Mattingly, Luke McCord, Jenine Michilena, Mary Nekrassoff, Eleanor Obmann, Betty O'Neil, Lee Ann Parrott, Nita Parrott, Bud Phelps, Tom Poeschl, Sr. Mary Porter, Christine Regan, Raymond Remick, Zan Rockett, Nikelle Schafer, Charles Schneider, Katherine Schottgen, Marylyn Smith, Lisa Stamps, Jardee Stanley, Phyllis Steele, Jo Ster, Laura & Paul Studer, Simon Sucharski, Clement Sweeney, D. Sweeney, Maureena Sutton, Elise Taylor, I. Thompson, X. Thompson, Jean Villanueva, Frank Vogel, Marvin Webster, Bishop Weigand, Mike Williams, Lani Zacherson, Claudette Zompetta

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: Mike Curran +; Rita Crutcher +
Bob & Fran Desrochers -Int. (52nd Anniv.)
Tuesday: Charley Steele +; Leonard McKee +
Bob & Fran Desrochers -Int.
Wednesday: Susan Cotner -Int.; Eugene Kaminsky +
Bob & Fran Desrochers -Int.
Thursday: Rita Crutcher +; Mary Ann Kaminsky -Int.
Friday: Rita Crutcher +; Leonard McKee +
Ileen Massey +
Saturday: Susan Cotner -Int.

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

For some time people have asked why we have Mass intentions on weekdays but not on Sundays. We will do so on Saturday evening and Sunday from now on. When you speak with the office staff, please let them know the time and date you wish. If this works, we will continue for the long term. One Mass on each Sunday must be celebrated by the Pastor for "the people of the parish." Having Masses offered for the living or the dead has a long tradition in the Catholic Church. We are glad to make it as convenient as possible for our parishioners.

Stewardship

~ a way of life ~

HURRICANE RECOVERY CONTINUES

In June at the General Assembly of Bishops in Los Angeles, the bishops heard a report from the Hurricane Recovery Task Force as well as from several bishops still reeling from the catastrophic devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

While the original national collection raised more than \$130,000,000, largely for humanitarian relief, the needs for diocesan recovery in the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the Diocese of Biloxi are as great now as they were immediately after the storms. In the Diocese of Biloxi the local Bishop reports that 428 of 433 Church-owned structures were destroyed or severely damaged, with more than \$70,000,000 damage sustained, and insurance will cover only \$35,000,000. In the Archdiocese of New Orleans, the Archbishop estimates \$52,000,000 in uninsured flood damages on buildings they are attempting to reopen right now, and another \$70,000,000 uninsured flood damage on buildings they have had to delay reopening. These costs place even greater burdens on people already overwhelmed by grief, dislocation and discouragement.

Such needs demand an immediate response. Therefore, the bishops' conference approved a second national collection for those two dioceses. The first collection focused on humanitarian relief. This collection is intended to help meet the Church's recovery and rebuilding needs. 60% of the collection will be provided to the Archdiocese of New Orleans and 40% to the Diocese of Biloxi. Holy Family will help in this effort with a second collection later this month. Please watch the bulletin for details.

THANK YOU

A special "Thank You" goes out to the Hispanic Ministry for thoroughly cleaning the church twice each month. These generous volunteers have given their time and hard work to keep our worship space beautiful, and we thank them for their faithful stewardship.

DROP US YOUR BUSINESS CARD

Leave your business cards in the collection basket on Sunday or drop it by the Paris Office during the week. Not only do we like to keep up with our family members in their business endeavors, but from time to time the parish finds itself in need of commercial or professional services. Whenever possible, we would prefer to work with family! We wish you the best in all that you do.

STEWARDSHIP – TREASURE	
GENERAL COLLECTION	
Weekly Goal	\$ 11,000.00
Aug 6	\$ 12,487.00
Aug 13	\$ 9,293.00
Aug 20	\$ 8,706.00
Aug 27	\$ 10,088.00
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ 87,229.00
Goal-to-Date (9 Weeks)	\$ 99,000.00
% of Goal Collected	88.11 %
Annual Goal	\$ 572,000.00
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COLLECTION	
Weekly Goal	\$ 3,750.00
Aug 6	\$ 2,842.50
Aug 13	\$ 915.00
Aug 20	\$ 2,934.00
Aug 27	\$ 1,055.00
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ 15,453.50
Goal-to-Date (9 Weeks)	\$ 33,750.00
% of Goal Collected	45.79 %
Annual Goal	\$ 195,000.00
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
Catholic Communications <i>Submitted uncounted</i>	
<i>"Every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit, comes from above," says St. James in the second reading. But, he reminds us, true worship of God involves using those gifts to benefit the less fortunate. Good stewardship is not optional; it is the hallmark of our faith!</i>	

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 1 Cor 2:1-5; Lk 4:16-30
 Tue: 1 Cor 2:10b-16; Lk 4:31-37
 Wed: 1 Cor 3:1-9; Lk 4:38-44
 Thu: 1 Cor 3:18-23; Lk 5:1-11
 Fri: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
 Rom 8:28-30; Mt 1:1-16,18-23
 Sat: St. Peter Claver: 1 Cor 4:6b-15; Lk 6:1-5
 Sun: Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Is 35:4-7a; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

Questions of the Week:

For Adults: The question Jesus poses for us today is: do you live by the letter or the spirit of the Law?

For Children: Jesus tells us today to be careful about what we say and do. How do you treat your family and friends? Do you think about what you say and how you say it?



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL definitely provides an Academics Plus education for each student! One of the major plus factors is the emphasis that is placed on service to the school, parish, and community. Each month, all students are asked to contribute a specific food item that has been requested by various area food lockers. This month the children will bring peanut butter and jelly, those back-to-school staples, for Father Madigan's Food Bank. Other service projects throughout the year might include special fundraisers for the victims of national or world disasters such as the tsunami of 2004 or Hurricane Katrina last year. All of these activities help the students learn to live the school's Mission Statement: "To nurture Christ-like behavior in one another."

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Welcome back to Holy Family for another great year. It is my privilege to remind and encourage parents of the importance of our being a Catholic school. Catholic school students are expected to attend Mass in the parish to which you belong on weekends (Saturday evening and Sunday.) The importance of the Mass and participation in it is taught in class and needs to be part of a Catholic life. Parents please set a good example for your children and give them the greatest gift of all - faith and preparation for Heaven! May you have a blessed year. Let us all do all we can to live as Jesus calls us to and practice our faith each day.

 **Catholic Faith Formation**

Holy Family Faith Formation announces the **Opening Day of Religious Education Classes for English, on Sunday September 24th, from 10:15-11:45 am.** This will be a new dismissal time that will, hopefully help with the traffic congestion in the parking lot after class, that we have all experienced over the last couple of years.

We will be holding **Pre-registration** after all masses today. Pre registering your child will give us a better opportunity to provide books and supplies for the students on their first day of class Please join us at St. Joseph's Hall for hospitality and, at the same time register your children for Religious Education Sessions. If you prefer, please fill out registration forms located at each entrance of the church, and either mail or drop in the collection basket or drop by our office at the Community Center as soon as possible.

We want to welcome back all our returning students, and also invite any new children to our parish to share together as Our Lord blesses another Faith-Filled year at Holy Family. If you have any questions please contact Bonnie Johnson at 726-7217 or at home 408-5191.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.



NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS



PARISH BREAKFAST TODAY!

The Knights of Columbus is hosting a Parish Breakfast in the Community Center this morning. The proceeds will go to the support of a Seminarian.

Why work on Labor Day Weekend? Let the Knights Cook you a great and very affordable breakfast; adults are \$4.00 and children under 12 only \$3.00. Enjoy fellowship and good eats together. See you there!

YOUTH MINISTRY

CALLING ALL JR. HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL MUSICIANS AND SINGERS

We are trying to compile a list of all musically talented young people in the parish. Please email holyfamilycym@yahoo.com and let us know whether you sing or play an instrument (and which one!)



THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2006
IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY

ARE YOU A WOMAN IN NEED OF A LITTLE TIME TO YOURSELF – A LITTLE FOOD FOR THE SOUL?

Women of all ages are warmly invited to Holy Family Mother's Ministry 9-week fall spiritual renewal. Experience the healing power of the Holy Spirit; Deepen your Prayer Life; Meet New Friends. Together we will begin the first half of the popular Women of Grace® Foundational Study Series. The meetings begin Tuesday, September 12 from 9:30-11:30 am in the RCIA room at the Holy Family Community Center and meet each Tuesday morning until November 7th Please pick up a brochure at one of the church entrances or contact Julie Desrochers 784-7622 or Jessica Lendewig at 988-4969 for registration information.

PARISH FESTIVAL NEWS

It's that time of year again when our parish comes together in support of our parish festival. This year it is Sep 30-Oct 1. Every registered parishioner will be receiving a sheet of 15 raffle tickets. For a donation of \$2.00 per ticket, we ask that you to sell 13 tickets and keep 2 free tickets for yourself. \$4500.00 will be given away in prizes, and if you sell your tickets and turn them in by September 18, fill out the Early Bird coupon for a chance at one of five \$100 Early Bird prizes! Tickets can be turned in to the collection basket or the parish or school office. You need not be present to win. Good Luck and we hope to see you at the Festival!

WOMEN'S COUNCIL NEWS

ANNUAL PASTA DINNER!

It's not too late to purchase your Pasta Dinner Tickets. Please call Anita Marsolais at 723-1775 or Gerry Matista at 725-2478 for reservations. We should have lots of fun, as always. Hope to see you there! *(Please see our insert.)*



LOOKING OUT FOR EACH OTHER IN THE HEAT

As our current extreme weather situation continues, please be aware of your neighbors, family members, or those you know living alone who may need assistance. The Fire and Law Enforcement Departments of our surrounding areas are asking that we all look out for our neighbors. Call, visit, check on anyone who may be alone, elderly or in a situation where they need access to water or a cool environment.

The City and County of Sacramento have listed area cooling centers for people to visit if they have no air conditioning in their home. To access that information please call 916-264-5011 (City) or 916-874-2691 (County), 916-498-1000 (Sacramento area Help line)

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) has agreed to work with customers who may encounter hardship in meeting higher than normal utility bills due to the heat.

FOOD PROGRAM FOR SENIORS:

A kind note was sent into the parish office to tell us about a program called Senior Citizens Services, Inc., that distributes two large boxes of food each week to seniors for a \$20 monthly donation. According to a local care provider, the food is high quality (meat, vegetables, cereal) and donated by local grocers. The senior (or his/her care provider or family member) would be responsible for picking the food up weekly at the distribution center from 9 am - 11 :30 am Mon-Fri. For more information, please contact: Senior Citizens Services, Inc., 8175 Signal Court, Ste. M, Sacramento, CA 95824, Phone: 381-7794 (located off Power Inn Road between Lemon Hill and Elder Creek Roads)

DIAPER/CLOTHING DRIVE!!

The Sacramento Life Center is in need of diapers, new or gently used baby clothes, and diaper wipes for their baby closet. Each year the Sacramento Life Center helps hundreds of women facing an unintended pregnancy, and the baby closet is a vital part to the services offered. Please bring your donations to the downtown clinic at 930 Alhambra Blvd., Ste 210. We are open Monday-Friday 9 am - 5 pm. For more information please contact Sara at 916-451-4357.

WHEELS OF LOVE

All Medicare recipients should now be aware that they may be eligible to receive a power wheelchair, paid for by Medicare, if they suffer from conditions such as arthritis, respiratory disorders, cardiovascular disease, pain, gait instability, and other conditions that impair a beneficiary's ability to participate in completing activities of daily living. For more information on Medicare eligibility call 1-866-631-3022.

Prayer Opportunities



WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA:

Pope Benedict XVI has elevated the World Apostolate of Fatima (The Blue Army.) It is now officially associated with the Pontifical Council for the Laity in Rome. We are happy to offer these prayers here at Holy Family.

All are welcome to join us Mondays after the 8:30 am Mass in St. Mary's Hall. For information, please call Phyllis, 725-0218 or Phyllis, 725-5358.

VOCATIONS CROSS



Each week a parish family is presented with the Vocations Cross to take home for the week and asked to pray daily for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The next Sunday, the family returns the cross and another family is presented the cross to pray for vocations.

If you are interested in taking the Vocation Cross home, please contact Young Stewart at 332- 8732.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Jesus stays with us day and night in the Blessed Sacrament, blessing us with the grace that encourages us, consoles us, strengthens us, guides us and inspires us to place our trust in Him. We stay with the Real Presence of Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration to be more personally involved with Him and to keep the Eucharist central in our lives.



Spending time with Jesus in the Eucharist enables us to build a truly personal relationship with Him. Come into His presence in our beautiful chapel - He is looking forward to your visit!

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL VISITING HOURS:

Monday – Friday	9:00 am – 9:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am – 3:30 pm
Sunday	1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Also in the chapel:

Each day at 9:00 am a community Rosary and Chaplet of Mercy are prayed, and at 3:00 pm the Chaplet of Mercy is prayed.

DOMINICAN LAITY AT HOLY FAMILY TODAY!

St. Dominic founded the Order of Preachers in 1216. He chose that name to express our purpose, namely to explain the message of Jesus to others. He outlined the means to achieve this purpose – through prayer, both private and liturgical; the steady study of Sacred Truth; the sharing of our spiritual life with others in the community; and, apostolic outreach. From the beginning, St. Dominic associated devout Catholic lay people in his plan for spreading the Gospel. The Dominican Laity have been members of the Order of Preachers since the 13th century.

Think about joining the Dominican Laity of Sacramento which meets on the 1st Sunday of the month at Holy Family Church, in St. Mary Hall of the Community Center, from 1 – 3 pm. Our first meeting will be next Sunday, September 3rd, 2006. Hope to see you there.

For more information, please contact Phyllis Sale, 725-5358.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE - AND BEYOND

SHOP – SAVE – HELP THE SACRAMENTO LIFE CENTER

On SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2006 at all Macy's stores you can save money on Macy's purchases and also help the Sacramento Life Center. Here's how it works: For \$5.00, the Life Center will send you a shopping pass for you to use all day on September 16 when shopping at Macy's.

This pass enables you to save 10-20% off most purchases made at Macy's that day. Please note that these savings are IN ADDITION to items that are already on sale, including clearance items. There are a few exclusions, including cosmetics, fragrances, fine/fashion watches, Kate Spade, Coach, Waterford & baccarat crystal. The Life Center benefits by being able to retain 100% of the revenue from the passes sold.

If you would like to purchase a pass and/or if you would consider selling any additional passes to co-workers, family, or neighbors, or if you have questions, please call Sara or Lina at (916) 451-4357.

BUS TRIP TO NUGGET CASINO, SPARKS, NEVADA

The Roseville Knights of Columbus #4540 are sponsoring a Bus Trip to Nugget/Sparks on Sunday September 24th. The cost is \$25.00 per person - prepaid with approximately \$15.00 returned at the casino. Checks should be made payable to Knights of Columbus #4540. Please call Sue or Dave Mirtoni for reservations and details at 782-3242.

TEA & CRUMPETS

The St. John the Evangelist Church Ladies Guild is inviting you to "Tea & Crumpets" on Wednesday, September 20th at 11:30 am. Bring your own tea cup. Call for reservations on or before September 17th at 5:00 pm. For more information, please call Margery at 967-2620 or 961-6541. St. John the Evangelist is located at 5751 Locust Ave. in Carmichael.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL will hold its annual OPEN HOUSE for prospective students and parents Sunday, October 8th from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity to visit the campus as well as meet the students, faculty and staff of a community that has provided young men and women with an excellent Catholic, college preparatory education since 1876. Informational presentations will be given at 1:30 and 2:30 in the school gymnasium. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE, 733-3690 or log onto our website @ cbhs-sacramento.org.

17TH MEDJUGORJE PEACE CONFERENCE

Oct. 26-27-28 - Bren Events Center, UC-Irvine

"Dear Children, change your lives ... decide for God."

Bishop Tod Brown has given permission for this conference and Auxiliary Bishop Dominic Luong will preside at the Eucharistic Celebration on Sunday. Visionary Marija from Medjugorje has been invited. The conference offers the most beautiful liturgies, penance and healing service (Rev. Matthew Munoz), Catholic teaching by renowned speakers and awe-inspiring testimonies. Hear praise and worship music by Spirit Alive and Connie Salazar. See entire program and registration form at www.medjugorjeirvine.org or phone 714-572-9779.

SACRAMENTO CURSILLO

The women's weekend will take place October 19-22, 2006. Cursillo is a short course in Christianity. There are talks, discussions, sharing, singing, laughter, and prayer. It will take place at Our Lady of the Oaks Retreat Center in Applegate, CA. For more information, please visit www.sacramentocursillo.org or contact Wendy Raemaeker, Pre-Cursillo Coordinator, at 972-1794 or Maureen Poeschl, Rectora, at 780-0254.

SAINTS GO MARCHING IN

The second week in October brings the annual Saints Go Marching In walk to raise funds for the Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home in Sacramento. Look for further details in upcoming bulletins.

PRESENTATION: PRAYER AND CONTEMPLATION

The Diocese Lay Formation Institute presents Prayer and Contemplation facilitated by Sr. Katherine Doyle, RSM
Site: Diocesan Pastoral Center, 2110 Broadway, Sacramento
Date: Saturday, September 16. Time: 9:00 am- 3:30 pm .
Cost: \$20. For more info, contact Dr. Holly Peterson at 733-0153 or hpeterson@diocese-sacramento.org.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

St. Francis High School, Sacramento, is now accepting applications for the position of Assistant Athletic Director. This is a part-time, 10-month position (20 hours per week). Applicants must have a Bachelor's Degree and experience in coaching or administering athletics. The position will remain open until filled. Job description and application are available at www.stfrancishs.org. Send with resume to: Pat Maier, Human Resources, St. Francis High School, 5900 Elvas Avenue. Sacramento, CA 95819. Questions: 916-452-3461. ext. 290.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Labor Day recognizes the hard work we put into our jobs. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will turn the work of marriage into fun and romance! For more information, go to srsregistrar@sbcglobal.net or call Raul & Gayla Ponce: 866-825-2046; Next Sacramento date: Oct 6-8/ Stockton, Sept 29-Oct 1

RETREAT FOR SINGLE ADULTS

The Diocese of Sacramento Department Evangelization & Catechesis & its Single Adult Ministry are sponsoring an upcoming Retreat for Single Adults entitled, "A Single Sound of Soul," facilitated by Victoria MacDonald. This weekend, take time to be still... to listen and recognize the unique sound of your soul's voice.

Site: Mercy Retreat Center

535 Sacramento Street in Auburn

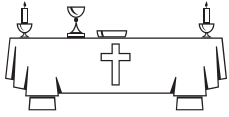
Date: Fri. October 20th - Sun. October 22nd

Time: 6:00 pm Friday to after lunch, Sunday

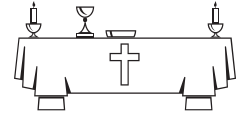
Cost: 175 for overnight retreatants & \$130 for commuters

INFO: Contact Marylee at (916) 419-9845

or email marylee_barcelona@earthlink.net



Exploring the Mass



Part IV - Communion Rite and Concluding Rite

Today we complete our journey through the Mass with the Communion Rite and the Concluding Rite.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer appears as the prayer of the whole Church and is situated in a special place to reveal its full meaning and effectiveness. Placed between the Eucharistic Prayer and our Communion, the Lord's Prayer sums up on the one hand all the petitions and intercessions of the Eucharistic Prayer and on the other, it prepares us for the banquet of the kingdom which the Sacramental Communion anticipates.

In the sign of peace we make a spiritual pledge to be open to each other as Christ would, both in the celebration of the Liturgy and after it.

The Lamb of God accompanies the breaking of the bread. This rite of the breaking of the bread emphasizes how the Eucharist is a sharing event. Those who break bread are expected to offer their lives for others in the same way Jesus did throughout His life and especially in the passion. A small portion of the large host is placed into the chalice signifying the union of the Body and the Blood of Christ.

The practice of receiving, both the Consecrated Host - in the hand - and the Precious Blood from a common cup, forges a real link with our past. Vatican II initiated a restoration of the Church's ancient tradition of distributing the Eucharist under both kinds, so that the full symbolism of receiving Christ's Body and Blood can be appreciated.

As the Minister of the Eucharist says "THE BODY OF CHRIST" and we respond "AMEN", we are declaring that we are one with Christ and with all Christians.

The Communion song expresses "the spiritual union of the communicants, who join their voices in a single song, shows the joy of all, and make the Communion procession an act of unity" (GIRM no. 56i).

In the prayer after Communion, the Priest prays that the reception of Holy Communion will result in certain and definite spiritual benefits for those who have shared the Eucharist - that the spiritual effects of the Eucharist will be carried out in our everyday lives.

The Concluding Rite: Not just and ending...

As the liturgy continues to evolve, perhaps some day the Concluding Rite will be more aptly renamed the Rite of Transitioning, or the Rite of Continuance. This week, our journey comes to a close as the liturgy comes to the Concluding Rite. However, neither is truly an ending, but the end of a good beginning!

The Concluding Rite is a bridge from our prayer together to the prayer of our individual lives, still one

in the body of Christ but physically separate in expressing and living that oneness. It is time to take leave of each other - for the moment - and look forward to the next gathering. The Concluding Rite consists of announcements (on occasion), the final blessing and the dismissal accompanied by a song of Sending Forth.

Announcements are optional and generally brief, and they express the sense of community that we have built in the celebration carried forward into other events.

The blessing is the heart of the Concluding Rite. The Priest as the true presence of Christ, with hands outstretched, offers God's blessing, completing the circle of mutual blessing that began with the same sign of the cross in the Introductory Rites. The assembly accepts this blessing and assents with an "Amen."

The dismissal is a commissioning. The Deacon or Priest sends each member of the assembly forth to do good works, and to praise and bless the Lord. The assembly responds in a final expression of thanksgiving for the tremendous gifts we have received with a resounding, "Thanks be to God."

The recessional song, or song of sending forth, is technically optional, and as such is occasionally omitted or done instrumentally. Most often, however, the assembly is led by the cantor or choir in a song or hymn that brings the message of the mass or season to a joyous level that should assist all in taking the spirit and the meaning of the liturgy forth to fulfill the commission we have been given. The transition from public to private prayer is made in full voice, with meaningful text and heartfelt conviction. Until we meet again.

...but a beginning

Like the Concluding Rite, sometimes an ending is just a beginning. While our four week program to build Full, Active and Conscious participation in the Liturgy is drawing to a close, the process of Liturgical Renewal is just beginning. The next step is to put the information that has been presented into good use - and to seek additional information that may be needed to strengthen the foundation of our participation.

There is a phrase that can be used as a starting point for your personal part in the parish Liturgical Renewal. "We must use the whole week to prepare for the liturgy and the liturgy to prepare for the whole week." Putting this concept into practice will help you to keep Christ in the center of your life where He belongs, 24 hours a day, every day of the week. God bless you and your family - see you at mass!