

## **FROM THE PASTOR'S CORNER:**

This is a full weekend. Besides our regular Sunday celebration of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, we have the opportunity to welcome Father Ron Hilt, our new Parochial Vicar, to our parish. He will take a few minutes to introduce himself at each of our Masses this weekend. Please be sure to extend a warm, St. Isidore welcome to him next weekend.

Thank you to all who helped with Father Dennis' farewell celebrations last weekend and to all those who took the time to wish him well in his new assignment. He gave us many memorable moments and touched many hearts during the two and one-half years he served at our parish. We wish him God's blessings as he begins a new chapter in his life as pastor at Holy Family parish in Shorewood.

Thank you to all who helped make our various celebrations of last week's Catholic Schools Week so memorable. The St. Isidore School community did a wonderful job in providing the music for last Sunday's 8:30am Mass. It was good to have our young people lead us in prayer at that Mass.

I also had the chance to thank the men and women who serve on our Grade School faculty and staff. It was interesting to tally the combined years of service given to the St. Isidore parish community by our school faculty and staff. They have a total of 335 years of service in Catholic education at our school. This is an astounding number of years of service to our parish through our school, especially when we remember that the age of our country is only 235 years. We thank God for each of the dedicated men and women who serve on the faculty and staff of our school.

Last week we held our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Busy Person's/At Home Retreat." In the midst of their work-week and all of the additional activities that are a part of the week, retreatants committed themselves to set aside a 30 minute period each day for individual prayer. Each day they were given a Scripture passage to pray. They also meet with a Director each day to discuss their experiences during their prayer and receive some suggestions for the next day. I was very happy to serve as a Director for some of our retreatants. I certainly felt like I was walking on "holy ground." It continues to be a wonderful opportunity for us to recognize and experience God's presence in our day to day experiences.

I wrote about the following a few weeks ago and have been asked to repeat this message. No doubt we are well into the "cold and flu" season this year. Recently I have received some comments about transferring germs at the Our Father and the Sign of Peace. One of the best ways of transferring cold and flu germs is through hand contact. We have fellow parishioners among us who are struggling with weakened immune systems. They may look very healthy, but

actually are in danger of easily catching a cold or flu that most of us would fight off. This is especially true of those in chemo therapy. We need to be mindful and respectful of the needs of others to protect themselves from winter sickness. If someone near you at Mass is hesitant to take your hand during the Our Father or at the Sign of Peace, please do not take offense, as I am sure no offense is intended. And if someone is hesitant about offering their hand during the Sign of Peace, a simple nod of the head and smile could be an appropriate greeting. While we receive many blessings through our community prayer of the Mass, we don't want to go home with the unwanted affliction of a cold or the flu.

Looking ahead, we have a wonderful opportunity for coming together during these cold winter months. Our St. Isidore Dinner Dance and Silent Auction will be on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Abington Banquets on Butterfield Road in Glen Ellyn. The planning committee has been working very hard over the past several months to make this a classic parish event. It promises to be a wonderful mid-winter evening spent with fellow parishioners. Additional information is available elsewhere in the bulletin.

It is hard not to be aware of tonight's Super Bowl XLVI game in the new Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Even though our hometown Bears ended their season weeks ago, most of us will find ourselves gathering with family and friends for the traditional Super Bowl parties. It is a great time to gather with each other in the middle of winter. As always, may God continue to bless us with all that we need, and more.

Father Jim Murphy