

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 15, 2012

M & M's

We continue to welcome our visitors who are unable, alongside of us, to add spice to the area's strained traffic designs, but are so welcomed onto our parking lot and on into the pews! We all travel and coming together in sacramental settings, speaks to our universal faith story with Christ

- Parishioners, do you go out of your way to welcome folks...even, just ask: "where you' all from?" And very much appreciate feedback from visitors on how strong they sense a welcome? (or not?)

MSGR. DAN GALLAGER: Msgr. continues his challenging service within the Vatican as we continue our pride as his home parish. He celebrates 13 years as a priest on July 17. You might get a card off to him and consider a small monetary gesture. You know my style in not giving me monies. However, his compensation is less than priests serving here in his Diocese and his setting can be a bit "pricey". This very limited thought by me also is contributed by his deep spirituality and simplicity of life. He recently sent a thank you note to the parish for a gift of a personal Roman Missal (prayers during mass). And he welcomes to share a bonus: If you are traveling to Rome he gladly gives a special tour! (check with me on contact). Mailing address: English Section, Vatican Villa Stritch, Via della Nocetta 63, 00164 Rome, Italy (\$1.05)

CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL: The announcement should be on parchment paper! We have recently topped out at \$111,000 which is beyond our target of \$102,000! I have consistently said though, that this is not simply about money but also the maturity and fervor of our faith. This annual campaign identifies us as unified with the Diocese of Gaylord in the most diverse Catholic charity. It goes well beyond operations of a Diocese from educating seminarians to helping the needy in our area. A salute to the parish and to the organizing committee. We welcome parishioners who are still finishing up their commitment when we mailed out the incomplete cards. And yes, seasonal parishioners help us!

- as always noted, excess monies over the target stays in the parish. In recent years, we have fallen \$20,000 short of the target and have owed the Diocese money. Keep those pledges coming in so the excess is realized. We have parish needs, but should we make a tithe from the excess to a local charity? Blessings should bestow blessings on others?
- within a few months, a complete parish financial report will be forthcoming. A detailed one will be offered of the fiscal year and a shorter, easily read, commentary on our financial issues and figures.

AND CONTINUE DONATING TO AND PLAN YOUR "bidding" AT THE VOCATIONAL GARAGE SALE: Assistance for our local aspiring monk, Joe Balog, is spearheaded by his hard work on upcoming garage sale. The bulletin enclosure speaks to all the details. The closing days come down to you're cleaning out the attic and more, shopping at the event, and spreading the word. Thank you. Joe inspires.

AND THAT APARTMENT OVER THE CARRIAGE HOUSE: I thank you for donated furniture items and toasters/coffee pots/dishes and more to return it to operational status. I will use it for occasional visitor but do not hesitate to contact me directly toward a possible short term stay that comes to your attention. Bev Cramer put some special design to the arrangement that I could not dream up!

AND THEN THERE IS ME: One or two words, thanks or thank you, are both inadequate to express myself to you after finishing my first year as pastor. My six year assignment will walk me into my "senior years". Hey, some folks close in on retiring near age 61. However, not most priests, or many workers today, and hardly spouses from marriage (i.e. vows). I sought this parish when it became available and if I am never perceived as right about much, I WAS RIGHT ABOUT THIS! Don't let me get soft or spoiled. Thanks, in Christ's spirit of challenge of our faith and growth.

AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ISSUES IN THE NATION: I read and listen extensively on this topic from historians to scholars. I am sensing that many do not see what can evolve here within limited interest on their part. And yes, some news media aggressively, intentionally misinform or mislead. Be aware, speak, and pray.

*in Christ's PEACE + VIGOR,
just Fr. Ray*