

Dear Faithful in Jesus Christ,

First of all, I would like to share with you that I am leaving for Spain to do my annual retreat in the headquarters of the Society of Jesus Christ the Priest. Needless to say, I am going to miss all of you and will pray for you in my daily conversation with God! Since I arrived in Platteville and met all of you, you really have taken over my heart. Fr. John del Priore will be in charge of the Parish and will help all of you in the many things you may need.

Secondly, I would like to invite you to participate in our Adult Program of Catechesis that will begin on October 6th. I think this is a great opportunity for all of you to express your concerns and to keep digging deeper into our Catholic Faith. There are some posters around the church and information in our bulletin about the topics and speakers. Feel free to ask as many questions as you wish.

Thirdly, Deacon Bill and I have planned a silent retreat for Advent on December 17th, and again, I would like all of you and especially those of you who are working at Saint Mary and Saint Augustine parishes to leave room in your calendar for that day. Deacon Bill, Fr. Jared Hood and Fr. Pedro Escribano, will be the speakers and they will talk about grace, intimacy with God through prayer and the coming of our Lord Jesus as a baby. During the whole retreat, you will have opportunity to go to confession.

A few weeks ago, I sent a letter to all of you talking about many other things that we need in the parish; a baptismal font was one of them. God is so great with us. Jeanette, a faithful person of our parish who has done many things for us, wants to donate the cost of the baptismal font in memory of her late husband, Bob who died in 2009. I would like all of us to include a special prayer for Jeanette and Bob in thanksgiving for her wonderful generosity. Also, we were in need of a new Missal because of the new translation that the Catholic Church wants to begin this coming Advent. Thanks to God, again there is a person, Thomas Hickey, who donated the money for the Missal. This is something great! And speaking of generosity, I want to give thanks to all the parishioners who worked so hard at our Parish Harvest Festival!

Finally, as you have heard, Bishop Morlino and the Diocese of Madison are in the process of supporting our School and our Parish. So far, our accountant manager and John Philipp from the Diocese are in contact to get acquainted with our finances so that they can help us in the best way. In addition, Bishop Morlino will meet with some families of our parish to hear their concerns and their hopes.

Since some people are asking me why I do not sing during the celebration of Holy Mass, here are my reasons. You really won't like to hear me singing! I am the worst singer of the world. Last time I sang in a church, people left the Church as if a hurricane were threatening them.

In a special way, I will miss all our homebound and sick parishioners as well as the kids of our school and staff. I have been teaching 6th to 8th grade students and stopping by Kindergarten to 2nd grade. Fr. John has been teaching 3rd to 5th grade. All of them are wonderful kids.

God bless you always and keep us united in one heart and one faith!

Fr. Faustino