

# Message From The Pastor

**March 9, 2021**

Never A Burden – Always A Privilege!

It was my senior year at the college seminary of Seton Hall University. At the beginning of the year, I was designated to be the sacristan of the seminary chapel. The responsibilities of a sacristan are numerous. Plus, I was enrolled in six classes, equaling eighteen credits!

Well, about two thirds of the way through the semester, our former bishop, Frank J. Rodimer, kindly penned a letter to me. He was very good about writing letters to seminarians. It was wonderful letter. In it, besides other information, he asked “how I was doing?”

It did not take too long to pen a response to him. For the most part it was a respectful and articulate letter. But, I made one major mistake. I should have never used the final word of the following sentence I penned in my reply to Bishop, “Sometimes, with all the requirements of six classes and being the sacristan of the seminary chapel, I feel burdened.”

Holy Mackerel, did that disappoint him! And, rightly so. He wrote back quite quickly to me. Bishop Rodimer corrected my thinking about my consideration all I was doing at that time was a “burden.”

A burden is a responsibility someone is forced to bear which is oppressive. To be a seminarian enrolled in several classes to prepare to become a priest should not be burdensome! To be the sacristan of the seminary chapel should be understood as a privilege, not a burden. To share with your bishop the aforementioned were oppressive experiences indicated, at the time of the writing of my letter, I did not have “the right stuff” to be a priest. Bishop Rodimer was correct. What we are called to do from the Lord should be understood as a blessing, not burden.

If the Lord is calling you to do what is necessary, please remember it is the Lord entrusting you with a “call” to fulfil a responsibility only you can fulfill! Truly, that is a blessing! You have been chosen!

Peace

Fr. Marc