

**My dear parishioners,**

Today we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of our parish. Our Lady of the Mountain Church is the first of the Catholic parishes here in Long Valley which has served our community since 1969.

This church has been a home and a beacon of light for so many people over the years and continues to be a witness to the faith which has come down to us from the Apostles.

Our parish is a family which continues to grow not only in number but in faith. You, the members of Our Lady of the Mountain Church, are the disciples who proclaim the Gospel through your words and deeds. Your faithful witness is that which has increased our parish. When others see your faith and the ways in which you live it they are drawn to Christ our Savior.

Our patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary, is our model for discipleship. The Mother of God is the first and most perfect of disciples who shows us how to present her Son to others. As she held Jesus in her arms for the shepherds to adore on that first Christmas morning, so too does she invite us to lift Him up for all to worship and praise.

When we gather each Sunday for the celebration of the Eucharist we adore our Precious Lord who comes to us in humility as our God and King. He beckons us to stay near Him so that filled with His grace we may assist Him in the building up of His kingdom on earth, specifically in Long Valley.

Thank you my good people for all that you do to make our parish such a wonderful place to call HOME. On this joyous occasion and every day let us raise our voices in union with Our Lady: MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD, AND MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN GOD MY SAVIOR! (Luke 1:47).

With pastoral love in Christ,  
Father Marcin