From the Pastor’s Desk:

Jesus sets a higher bar for us than we may set for ourselves. He expands the commandments for us and shows us that just the basic is not enough. But we should know that. In all things just to do the least required to get it to happen is short of the real goal. To provide your children with only a mix of vitamins and ground up food because that is all that is needed to give them the nutrients they need is not enough. We prepare meals, we have birthday cakes, we add taste and special care to the things we give to those we love - just doing the bare minimum is to fall short in love.

This past week I made more rounds and said Masses at Gardner Rehab and Wachusett Manor, and was impressed with the work being done by our parishioners who go to minister to these members of our parish. We perform an important ministry when we assist the sick and elderly. These people are in need of the touch of Jesus which we provide by our ministry. Our ministries to the nursing homes, to the prison, and to the Hospital are important. I understand that some have wanted to join these but there has been some confusion to a smooth entrance to ministry. I am meeting soon with ministry heads to see how we can make this smoother. If the Lord is calling you to serve, don’t be so discouraged early - see me if there are rough spots so we can work them out.

Last Friday we had a “Cabaret Night” at Holy Family to benefit the musical, and there were some good acts to make it an enjoyable evening. We have been working to determine the financial aid available for Holy Family next year - and through careful financial management we have a good amount of funds available. Please pass the word that if anyone thinks that Catholic Education is out of reach we have many ways to work around financial situations. Please contact the school.

I met for some time with people around the handicap access. We are still receiving quotes, and I spoke to the architect about some alterations to the plans that would make things more functional and save us money. Anyone who knows of anyone who could lend their skills in this area please see me. The time it takes to have a quality job done that will last for generations, and that does not use up all the funds is a challenge. Delays are substantial, but perhaps it was providential since some new plans have been put forward that could be very good.

Please continue to see the information in the bulletin and not the website. We have been having a number of programs (from our usual Bible Study to a film series), and provided social activities (such as the Trivia Night this Saturday). We continue to explore the potentials we have as a community to both build ourselves up and to reach out to the larger community in the love of Jesus. I don’t know where it is all heading, but I’m looking forward to continuing the ride.

God Bless,

Fr. Steve