From the Pastor’s Desk:

How can we be the salt of the earth and light of the world. Well that is a big task that Jesus gives us. Part of the life of our community is to support each other living our that life that Jesus lays out for us. Our weekly worship together on Sundays is a way that we give praise to God, allow God to fills, and also be a community to one another. It really is a great system Jesus set up when he established the Church. We are linked together in a union of humans with common belief, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be part of Jesus’ body ministering to those in the world (and to be ministered to when we need it), and we are joined with him in that Body to praise the Father. I think that we can forget the great treasure we have. A faith that is not something that someone made up one afternoon, but one that has been passed down from the Apostles and which has been guided in its development by the Hot Spirit; a historical union that reaches back 2000 years in an unbroken chain; a sensible and life-giving faith. If you sometimes have a hard time seeing how sensible and well put together our Catholic faith is, or don’t get how it can be life-giving I invite you to join in faith formation activities (like the Catholicism Series we are dong on Monday evenings), you may be surprised how over time weekly prayer and reflection and a little extra learning shows you something that you were not quite aware of.

This past week or so, I was pleased to be able to spend a little time with our Confirmation candidates and have a little food and talk about Reconciliation with them and their parents. We had a school assembly to say goodbye to Mrs. Jen Lukas who has served as secretary and nurse at the school for a number of years and who will be greatly missed - she is a tough act to follow. I had the pleasure to say Mass at the Garwest building and at the Heywood Assisted Living and do the St. Blaise blessing of the throats, and also go to the prison and see our parishioners behind bars (who are always so grateful that we are remembering them). It is an important part of what we do to reach out and bring the love - and in Mass and communion the actual present elf Jesus - to those who are unable to join us for Mass.

Last Friday we had our First Friday Mass and a brief period of adoration. If you have not done so, check it out some first Friday. Over the couple of years we have been doing this we have simplified it a little from the earlier times, and it turns our to be a nice time to have a quiet break from the bustle of things and devote an hour of prayer before dinner (1/2 hour Mass, 1/2 hour adoration - come for one or both). On Sunday we had a high Mass in the Extraordinary Form that was attended by 75 people. The choir worked hard and provided some beautiful music, as usual.

Some people have wondered about the return to the use of second collections. These were reinstated at the suggestion of parishioners to make it easier to distinguish between the parish regular collection, and the various collections that we contribute to through the year. This way it is very clear which funds you wish to remain in the parish, and which you wish to be sent to the specific appeal.

Please look through the bulletin and website (annunciationgardner.org). We have several events coming up from a special presentation regarding healing after divorce and the annulment process, and a reunion prayer for those that have made a cursillo. Also check out the Trivia Night - just a night of fun in response to requests for more social activities in the parish. Hope to see you at some of these. Have a great week.
Peace, Fr. Steve