

A LETTER FROM DEACON JIM FISH

Dear Parishioners of Holy Rosary and Visitation,

I greet you all in the love of Our Lord Jesus Christ – may His peace be with you!

It has been my practice to compose a column each week so I will continue this in my role as Pastoral Coordinator (PC) for this week's bulletin and our two websites. It's a way for you to get to know me and understand my perspective on items like spirituality and discipleship, the liturgical feasts and seasons, as well as current events affecting our two parishes. In every parish I have ever been, some have said that, "no one ever reads the bulletin." That's always a choice but I hope that those of you who do read it suggest to others to actually read it.

I'm looking forward to getting to know you as well as getting the lay of the land of both Holy Rosary and Visitation parishes. What I want to do in this column is to begin to explain what a Pastoral Coordinator actually does. It is a new model of leadership for these parishes. In fact this practice has existed for over 20 years in the Archdiocese of Seattle. A PC serves as an agent of the ministry of Archbishop Peter Sartain of Seattle in order to serve the pastoral and administrative needs of Holy Rosary and Visitation parishes. It is an appointed position directly from the Archbishop.

The PC is to lead and help organize the parish in discerning and articulating the vision and mission of the parishes and assist them in carrying it out. This includes the formation of disciples, evangelization, education, stewardship, implementing the policies of the Archdiocese and the Archbishop's vision for the church of Western Washington. I'll be working with Father Martin Bourke, our new parish priest, to help in continuing to create and foster a loving and welcoming community. We are both under the canonical supervision of Father Michael Radermacher, the Pastor of All Saints parish in Puyallup. For the most part, Father Michael serves in an advisory capacity and we'll meet on a regular basis. Ultimately though I'm responsible for the health and vitality of the parish. Father Martin and I will work as a team along with the staffs and volunteers of our two communities.

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The PC is also responsible for the well being of the two schools. I'm in charge of supporting and evaluating both Katie Dempsey and Marc Nuno in their roles as the spiritual and educational leaders of their schools. I will be working with them in a collaborative way on budget issues and development. I'll also be serving on the school commission for Visitation Catholic Stem Academy and the board for Holy Rosary Regional School/Juan Diego Academy.

As a Deacon, I will also be assisting on weekday and Sunday masses, preaching on a regular basis, baptizing, witnessing marriages, and leading memorial services. I will do my best to support and encourage Dcn. Mike Teskey in his existing diaconal ministry. I know he is deeply loved by these communities for his long service.

Obviously there is a lot to learn and figuring this out will be a work in progress. You have been through a lot of changes over the last few years and now you have yet another transition with which to work. I look forward to serving, sharing in ministry with Father Martin and Deacon Mike, and working with the staffs and generous volunteers of both parishes. I would ask for your prayer as Father Martin and I learn to serve you in the name of Archbishop Sartain.

In God's great love, hope, and mercy,

Deacon Jim