

Parish Priest's Corner

Lord, You Have the Words of Everlasting Life.

My dear friends in Christ, it is with great joy that I welcome you to the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time of the year. In today's Gospel, Jesus concludes his teaching on the Eucharist, a teaching in which he invites us to the Eucharistic banquet where his flesh and blood are the life-giving nourishment for our souls. This is a clear indication that the center of our Christian faith is not any human being but Jesus Christ, who gave up his own life for our sake so that we may have life. He reminds his disciples who were struggling with his teaching that the words he speaks are Spirit and Life. Peter reminds us that in times of struggle there is someone to go to, Jesus Christ, for he has the words of everlasting life.

It has been about six weeks since I started my ministry as the Administrator of Holy Trinity Parish and St. John's Mission. Since my arrival, I have been greeted with an outpouring of welcome and support by all of you. Some parishioners helped me to move in and get settled. Many have asked how they can be of help in many areas of our parish life. Your commitment to Christ is very inspiring and your love of Him so shines forth in our parish. I feel blessed to be here.

As the Administrator, I was sent to Holy Trinity and St. John's to serve Christ through my service to you. As such, my primary role is to bring Christ's love to your hearts through the Sacraments and in so doing journey with you to heaven. During my meetings with the Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and other groups in our parish, I have asked what your expectations of me are. From your responses, it was clear to me that you would like for all of us to be of one mind and one heart as we build up the Kingdom of God here in our local community. Your feedback reflects my primary role as your priest.

With my primary role in my mind, our Faith Formation program will no longer be for children and the youth only. Adult faith formation through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) will be an important part of our parish faith formation program. You might be asking, isn't RCIA for people who want to join the Catholic Church? Yes, RCIA is for you if you are considering becoming Catholic. It is also for you if you are a Catholic interested in receiving Confirmation, as well as for you if you are a confirmed Catholic interested in knowing more about what it really means. It is for all of us Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Together, we will explore the Catholic faith and the richness of God's love for us. More details about RCIA and the topics I will be teaching can be found inside today's bulletin. RCIA starts on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, and goes till May 2019. All are welcome.

To further foster the spirit of evangelization within our parish, we have subscribed to FORMED. FORMED is an online evangelizing tool that features many Catholic resources such as videos, eBooks, movies, and audio talks. It is a very enriching platform for personal faith formation and user friendly. I thank Dr. Ann Toth, Kathy Cowan, and Teresa Roberts, who through their generous donations made it possible for us to subscribe and use FORMED in our parish. I will provide more information on FORMED in the coming weeks.

Last week, I met with the cemetery committee. Among other things discussed, we looked at the state of our parish cemetery, the number of plots available for purchase, and who can purchase a plot from us. From land imaging done last year, we realized that some portions of the cemetery thought to be available are occupied. Before now, the cemetery policy made purchasing a plot open to Catholics within and outside of Holy Trinity. However, because of limited availability of plots and the recommendations from the cemetery committee, I have decided that the purchase of a plot(s) from Holy Trinity cemetery will be available only to Holy Trinity and St. John's parishioners. A copy of the revised policy will be posted on the bulletin board in the church vestibule.

Finally, I would like to thank Sharon Hennick, Mary Duncanson, our parishioners of Filipino descent, and all who organized and put together the August birthday and anniversary luncheon. Your generosity and service has continued to bring our parish community together. We are very grateful.

As we enter a new week, I wish everyone God's blessing.

-Fr. Anthony Ahamefule