

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace of Christ. I hope and pray that you are all enjoying the beautiful change of season.

It is well to occasionally point out some guidelines regarding the Sacrament of Marriage and funeral Masses.

If a couple plans to enter into marriage, it is necessary to participate in Deacon Doug and Char Cordier's marriage prep program no less than six months prior to the wedding date. Also, please check first with the parish about possible dates for the wedding as Colleen has a calendar with all parish activities listed.

Regarding funerals, please contact the parish for availability first before choosing a date and time. It is recommended that funerals be on Friday or Monday in the morning. For families outside the parish, they are responsible for providing programs and a place and time for the reception afterward. The Helena Diocese prohibits "eulogies" after Communion. Bishop Thomas mandated this a few years ago. Having people speak at Rosaries or receptions have proven to work very well. This way, the eulogy, which has *never* been part of the Roman liturgy, does not take away from the importance of the Liturgy of the Word or Liturgy of the Eucharist. The music ministry needs to be contacted in order to choose from their list of approved hymns.

These clarifications, as well as others that may be forthcoming, are part of my responsibility to preach, teach, and govern. Above all, they are a result of the fact that as your pastor, I am under the authority of the Church and am a man under obedience to Church law. It is very easy to think that we can "do things my way," which is pride. I have the responsibility to take into account the well-being of your souls and our being under the guide of the Church and Christ, which is the law of love, but we need to be humble and obedient, myself principally included, within the holy bond of order with Christ and Our Mother, the Church.

Deacon Doug has asked me to appeal to anyone who can work to help with the upkeep of our cemetery. It is a great opportunity for families or individuals to engage in corporal and spiritual works of mercy and charity in caring for this sacred ground in which rests our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thank you to all who help our parish family worship well – the choir, greeters, Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC's), ushers, readers, altar servers, decorators, those who keep the linen clean and beautiful and our faithful sacristans. Also, many thanks to Emma Gulko, who helps keep our church so clean and beautiful! Well done, good and faithful servants!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Father Raftis

## **What Makes a Dad**

**God took the strength of a mountain,  
the majesty of a tree,  
the warmth of a summer sun,  
the calm of the quiet sea,**

**the generous soul of nature,  
the comforting arm of night,  
the wisdom of the ages,  
the power of the eagles flight,  
the joy of a morning in spring,**

**the faith of a mustard seed,  
the patience of eternity,  
the depth of family need,  
then God combined these qualities.**

**When there was nothing more to add,  
He knew his masterpiece was complete,  
And so,**

**He Called it.....DAD**

*- Author Unknown*