

There are few Sundays that have as many names as this Sunday. Here are the various ways it is called: The Octave Day of Easter, Low Sunday, *Domenica in Albis*, The Second Sunday 'of' Easter, the First Sunday 'after' Easter, (I know, confusing, right?), and most recently, Divine Mercy Sunday. Another name is *Quasimodo* Sunday, coming from the Entrance Chant of today's Mass.

Of course, the name Quasimodo reminds us of the story of the Hunchback of Notre Dame, who was an abandoned infant, found by the priests of the Cathedral on this Sunday, and therefore named after the Sunday. The memory of the Hunchback of Notre Dame gives us pause to remember also the recent tragic fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. This fire shook the world and got the world's attention. It symbolically reminds us that our Christian faith is also fragile and needs to be tended to and cared for, lest the fires of evil take away its beauty. But it also reminds us that our faith is not in brick and mortar, but rather in Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone. And we are the living stones, joined to the Cornerstone, to make up the new and everlasting Temple in Heaven. It is a good reflection for us on this Octave of Easter, when Jesus, who had gone down into the grave, has now risen gloriously and triumphant, as He has promised to do also for the Church, his bride, on the Last Day.

This Sunday is also called "Low Sunday," owing to the fact that the preceding Sunday was the highest and holiest day of the whole liturgical year and this Sunday is celebrated in a quieter manner. It gives me, at least, an opportunity to say—to all the choir members, ushers, sacristans, servers, EMHC's, Altar Guild members, deacons and the parochial vicar—a great THANK YOU for all the many hours spent in preparing for these complex and involved liturgies. So many people are necessary for the beauty of our liturgy to come fully alive. I am grateful for your service and I hope that we can all have a little bit of respite before Pentecost, Corpus Christi and the summer festivities!

#### **8th Anniversary of Dedication as a Minor Basilica / Plenary Indulgence Opportunity**

One of the privileges of our church's status as a minor basilica is the opportunity for parishioners and visitors to receive a plenary indulgence on certain days of the year. A plenary indulgence removes the temporal punishment from all sin, as distinct from the eternal punishment removed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Doing the pious works that the Church recommends to us is, in a sense, rewarded, or "indulged," by Mother Church with this gift from the treasury of Grace, won by Christ upon the cross, and entrusted to the Church.

May 3rd, being the anniversary of the dedication of Sts. Peter and Paul as a Basilica, is one of the dates designated for this opportunity. What a perfect opportunity this is, especially being that it falls within the Octave of Divine Mercy. This year May 3rd falls on a First Friday, which gives an opportunity for exposed Adoration in the church, following our sung Mass at noon and continuing through the night. In order to receive the plenary indulgence, Catholic faithful must visit the Basilica on the designated date, receive Holy Communion, and offer prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father. One must also receive sacramental Confession (within 20 days, if not on that day), as well as be free from the attachment to sin. This opportunity is granted to the faithful who visit the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul on May 3, June 29, September 8, October 22, or on one day of their choice during the year.

#### **Our Organ Renovation Is Complete!**

Since Epiphany, our historic pipe organ has been undergoing a major cleaning and restoration, while the final two ranks of pipes were being built at a factory in Ohio. Our organ builder, Barger & Nix, installed the pipes just in time for Holy Week, and Andrea Tierney, our principal organist, showcased them last weekend at all our Easter Masses. Thank you to all who helped us raise \$35,000 to install the two ranks we needed to complete our organ: the trumpets and clarinets: that's 122 *new* custom made pipes!

We have a special opportunity to hear our completed organ in its full glory— Next Sunday, May 5th, at 7:00 pm, our assistant student organist, Therese Ohotnicky, will be giving her high school Senior Organ Recital. Therese is already an accomplished organist and has recently been appointed the principal chapel organist at Christendom College, where she will begin studying this fall. She has also just received the American Guild of Organists' "Service Playing" Certification. Therese's concert is free and open to the public with a reception to follow. Come enjoy the beautiful sounds of our enhanced pipe organ!

*Rev. J. David Carter*

