

September 5, 2017

Dear Parishioner,

On September 15, 2017, we begin our year long preparation for the 175th Anniversary of the founding of Our Lady of Seven Dolores Parish. This is wonderful milestone and we are grateful to God's faithfulness throughout the many years of our parish. Our parish in Festina is the mother parish of many of our local parishes and it was where the seed of faith was nourished for our immigrant ancestors.

On September 15, 2018 we will have our celebration of our 175th Anniversary by Archbishop Jackels coming to celebrate Mass with us and for our parish to come together to express to God our thanks for all our parish has meant to us.

By way of spiritual preparation, our parish is going to learn and pray the Seven Sorrows Rosary. It is a special rosary that meditates on the seven scenes in the Blessed Virgin Mary's life where she experienced difficulty, anguish, and sorrow in life. These scenes are so poignant because they show in Mary's life, her constancy and faith in the face of suffering. Her example gives us courage as we face the sufferings and difficulties of life. In a world that wants to shield us from difficulty, Our Lady's example helps us to find meaning in the suffering that we will all face in life. Mary is God's special gift to our parish.

Each member of our parish is going to receive a Seven Sorrows Rosary and instead of the "regular Rosary" before Saturday evening Mass, we will be praying the Seven Sorrows Rosary to spiritually prepare us for the celebration the 175th Anniversary of our parish. When you receive your Seven Sorrows Rosary, please pray with it. Learn it. Share with your family and friends.

May God bless us with the prayers of the Blessed Mother as we journey towards our 175th Anniversary and renew our commitment to serve the Lord.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Robert Gross
Pastor