

Dear Parishioners, Friends, Alumni and Religious Education Families,

Greetings to you as we have reached the Ferragosto Holiday and the celebration of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Hopefully the coming days will be a little cooler. I hope you are in a nice, calm and peaceful place right now! Our Masses for the Holy Day are Wednesday evening, August 14, at 6 PM and Thursday morning, August 15, at 10:30 AM. Fr. Bill Nordenbrock and I will be the celebrants, respectively. There will be music at both Masses. There will not be a 6 PM Mass on August 15.

The theme of faith and perseverance continues from last week in this Sunday's passage from the Letter to the Hebrews. How is our faith tested? How do we persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus? How do we keep from growing weary and losing heart? Being faithful and acting with trust in God's ways is exactly what God is asking of each of us. How do we respond to this request each day? How do we support and challenge each other's faith? That is why we are part of a Christian community, not to go it alone, but to be affirmed by one another's prayers, presence and support to give each other strength especially in our darkest moments. This weekend I will be the presider and homilist for the Saturday 6 PM and Sunday 9 AM Masses, and Fr. Bill Nordenbrock will be the celebrant for the Sunday 10:30 AM. I will be the Librarian downstairs in Tara Hall, so come and visit after Mass.

In the meantime, these "dog days" of August are a time for me to clean out files, weed through my book shelves, prepare for the soon to be released newest version of *As Romans Do*, solidify the Fall Calendar, prepare for my Chaplaincy at Marymount International School, write letters seeking auction donations for the St. Nicholas Charity Serata and put together the new budget. AND, of course, get ready to welcome our new Vice Rector, Fr. Steve Petroff, who arrives in Rome on August 21. Because the city is quieter and calmer, it is also a time to walk, reflect, pray, read and rest. September arrives all too quickly and once it does, we zoom straight through to Christmas, hardly stopping to take a breath. My goal is to be one step ahead before life gets busier than a beehive, so that the next crop of honey can be the best ever.

Information and registration forms are now available by email for our Family-Based Religious Education Program. Registered active parishioners who have been regularly attending our parish Masses and programs will have first preference for enrollment. However, there will be a limited number of openings for non-parishioners and non-active St. Patrick's parishioners. Attendance of the child together with one parent is mandatory for every session. Both parents must have a comprehensive, thorough understanding of English, as does the child. The minimum age for First Communion is now 8 years old and the Third Grade (by the first day of class) and for Confirmation it is 14 years old and the Ninth Grade.

We continue to work hard on the new *As Romans Do*, the first one at St. Patrick's. If you are interested in sponsoring our 100 page bi-annual guide to life in Rome as a way of promoting your business, school or place of work, please write to me as soon as possible and I will send you the information. We hope to go to press by September 25, with a book release date of November 1st.

Continue to have a good summer, and enjoy good weather, good times with family and friends, and good health and happiness wherever you are. I hope to see all of you very soon. Ciao for now and Buon Ferragosto!! Father Greg