

A Note From The Pastor...

YES, FR. VICTOR IS OFFICIALLY BACK!!!

May 28, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am very happy to be back doing what I love to do and being what I am called to be. I am very grateful to God for the blessing of rest and healing and to the community for your care and patience at a time when I couldn't be available for you. It feels good to be back where I call home and my community.

If you haven't noticed, during this Easter season, the scripture readings, particularly the first reading, are taken from the Acts of the Apostles. It speaks to us about the growth and transformation of the believers of Jesus Christ after their devastating journey through Jesus' death and resurrection. It tells us of the story about how the disciples came back to life after they were healed and how the church grew. The Church is led by the Spirit, the apostolic zeal was high despite several rejections, and the spirit of the Lord was with them. The disciples devote themselves in prayer and their lives have been transformed.

The disciples themselves experienced their own resurrection. They were back to life, freed from the imprisonment of their shame, guilt and fear. Jesus Christ paved the way to their restoration by his reconciliatory words and his abiding presence. All these experiences taught them lessons of life and a deeper knowledge and understanding of Jesus as the good shepherd who "lays down his life for his friends", the true vine that nourishes the branches.

Indeed Jesus is about love and life. He is about truth and justice, of compassion and forgiveness, of healing and restoration.

Today we hear Jesus pray to his father. The disciples saw Jesus several times praying but did not hear what he prayed. In the scriptures today, we have the opportunity to hear what he prayed. His prayer manifests to us the loving and trusting relationship between the father and the son. We can hear not only words, but also a relationship. Even more significantly, we are not just hearers and bystanders watching that wonderful relationship. WE are part of the relationship. We are brought into the relationship that exists between them. "They belong to you and you gave them to me". "I pray for them..... for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours..."

What a privileged moment for us to hear this prayer. WE are a gift of the Father to the Son. He died for us and we have become his brothers and sisters. WE become his church, and share in his life and glory. We are in communion with God and with one another, living one identity and believing in one God.

We are his people, He is our God.

Fr. Victor