

## From The Pastor

Three interested parties expressed interest in serving on the Parish Council over the last several weeks. We were hoping for more persons to step forward in this regard, but at the time of Mass on Pentecost, we had only three parties to fill three vacancies on the Council. As such, a drawing of names was not needed. We have accepted Paul Halkey, Jim Lovelock, and John Turchin as new members of the Parish Council. I am grateful for their interest and willingness to serve. Our next meeting will be in the fall.

The Parish Council is an essential part of an active and mature parish. We have been blest to have faithful and committed persons serving on the council over the last many years. A healthy council is one that regularly rotates members to ensure inclusive participation of any interested parish members, as well as providing a steady flow of creative and constructive ideas that lead to vibrant and contemporary parish life.

As a consultative body, the Parish Council assists in guiding the direction of the parish in support of the pastor and parish staff. The Council can serve as a sounding board for parish concerns, and is an open meeting to guest participants. Points of interest may be voiced by parish members at large or through a Council member. The Council is not a problem solving body, but rather one that considers the concerns and interest of the parish to ensure mature growth and vibrant parish life in a setting of mutual respect and Christian charity.

I am very grateful for those members rotating off the Council this year. Sandra Swanson has been the President for the last three years and is now leaving the Council. Tammy Swanson has served as our secretary and is also ending her term. Rory Grant has served in many capacities on the Council over many years and is now completing her service. Rory has also served as chairperson of the Christian Service Commission and is seeking new members to serve on this commission as they seek to name a new chairperson. Thank you to all those ending terms of service. Your time and talent has been a great asset to our parish life and we look forward to your continuing activity among us.

All parish members are welcome to join the various commissions that serve the parish. You are not only welcome, you are needed. Vibrant parish life does not happen in a vacuum. It happens through the time and effort of all of us who give ourselves in service to the larger body. Please consider joining a commission of interest to you, especially this year, the Christian Service group. With your active participation, we can continue the many outreach and service programs now in place, and perhaps come up with some new ones. We have much to offer, and the needs are many. Consider sharing yourself for the greater good of our parish life.

By nature a theological feast, the Feast of the Holy Trinity is also a very personal expression and revelation of God's presence in us through Christ, immanently present in the world in the Holy Spirit. Theology is the expression of our lived experience of God. It is not the abstract creation of any particular author or storyteller. Theology is grounded in, and gives expression to our experience of God. How do we experience God?

The Trinity gives expression to our experience. God the Father is Creator. We exist, and thus we were made. We had a beginning and came from an original source. God is the source of life and Creator of all that is. God the Son is the Redeemer. Pre-existent in God, the Son guarantees the success of God's creation. All that has been separated from God through human incompleteness and sin has been reconciled to the Father through the work of the Son. Jesus is Lord and Savior through his Incarnation, life, death, and Resurrection. In Jesus, we experience the mercy and compassion of God through one like ourselves. God who is transcendent mystery and invisible spirit has been revealed in the most evident of ways in the person of Jesus.

God the Holy Spirit is the expression and experience of divine love. The Holy Spirit sanctifies, makes us holy, and brings unity to all that is. The Holy Spirit is the Lord and Giver of life. Without love we are nothing. Only in love can we know God and share in the being and existence of God, for God is love.

The Trinity names one God expressed in three ways of being: Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. All that God is screams relationship. The life and giving of the Son to the world is the clearest evidence that God desires personal awareness and communion with all that is made. Only in God can we exist, for outside of God nothing exists. Our communion with God is to be personal, open, and trusting. We do not effectively or correctly relate to God out of fear, mistrust, or critical judgment. The divine has only expressed the desire for union, oneness, and reconciliation. God alone could accomplish this reconciliation through the divine person of the Son. Now we can approach God with love, confidence, and trust in all we seek from God. However insecure we may feel before God, everything God has revealed about himself invites open and honest communication. Relate to God in real and personal ways. More than a generic, invisible God who remains hidden in the skies, our God dwells within and among us in the person of the Spirit. If you live in love, you live in God, and God lives in you.

Father John Esper

