

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your warm welcome to our guests at the 9:30 am Mass last Sunday. In celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life, the Pauline Sisters and De La Salle Christian Brothers joined us for Mass and a breakfast hosted in the rectory. It was wonderful to see our guests thanked by so many for their dedicated service in religious life. Many of us know the Pauline Sisters who have had a valuable ministry through their bookstore in Redwood City/Menlo Park for many years. It was special to welcome Brother Joseph Fabiano, F.S.C., Brother Joseph Kirk, F.S.C. as well as an Aspirant (candidate discerning religious life) from Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory in San Francisco. Both Mr. Marc Nava and I are graduates of Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep and the Brothers have had a profound impact on our lives and vocations.

Today is World Marriage Sunday, and we will be honoring couples who are celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries at the 9:30 am and 11:30 am Masses. We are blessed and grateful for our many families who exemplify the virtues and graces of married life. You are witnesses to us of faithfulness and fidelity, mutuality and others-centeredness. The Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops offers this reflection that highlights to central relationship of family life in the Church. "The family is a school of prayer. To love and to forgive in the way that Christ calls us requires the Lord's grace. We cannot be salt of the earth and the light of the world without God. Only by prayer - itself a grace - do we keep the Lord at the center and recognize our need for Him. We've likely heard the line from Fr. Patrick Peyton: The family that prays together stays together. This isn't a formula for a life of ease. Difficulties will still come. It is rather a promise of hope. For every difficulty we face, we do so in the light of the Cross and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. A family that prays together makes room for God and for His grace and mercy. As a domestic church, the family is called to be a school of prayer, keeping the Lord at the center of the home, so that His light will shine brightly throughout the home, into the neighborhood, the community, and the world."

Each day I pray for the families of our parish. One of the great privileges of being a priest and a pastor is to be able to share in the life of your families. I am blessed by the encounters we share. There are moments of great joy with the milestones of new life, marriages, and the many satisfactions we experience as our families grow and mature. Sometimes, grace shines through most profoundly in those times of struggle and hardship. We all know how fragile our families can be, especially in these times when there seems to be an increasing demand on our time and energies. I am reminded so often of the words proclaimed in today's Gospel from Matthew: "Just so, your light must shine before others, that that may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

Throughout the various stands that make up family life, may we always remember that the Lord calls us to love one another, forgive one another, and to offer one another mutual support. We are called to be that salt of the earth which expresses itself by our personalities and to be light by our compassion and care for one another. God bless each of our families!!

Fr. Tom