

## From the Desk Of Fr. John

**Well...some of the excitement has begun to settle down** after the great celebration of the dedication and blessing of our new addition. It was such a wonderful weekend all around! The Lord provided such beautiful weather, and so many folks were able to attend which made it all the more special. Thank you again to all who helped in the weeks and months of planning the days of celebration and all who worked on those several days of joy-filled celebration. Great fun... great joy for our whole parish family. Much work and much sacrifice made it a reality and the Lord saw us through it all.

It is a matter of us now changing some of our habits developed over the last year and more. We need to experiment on where to park and where to enter the church...it may even affect where we end up sitting?! Oh my!

The other habits that need to change and be developed will be...to extend an extraordinary amount of welcome and hospitality to all who come...our own folks and our visitors along with those who are seeking a spiritual home and whom we welcome with true hospitality. That is not to be a passing thing...but our new custom and practice! We might need to hone our skills at this, and we can do it!

**To be an 'intentional' disciple takes some real commitment and courage along with sacrifice.** Jesus tells his Apostles... 'Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me.' That means that our commitment to Jesus has to be of the highest quality and utmost value. We might think of men and women entering the service of our country and the pledges they make. They commit their very lives to protect and defend our nation and its people...and some have had to make the ultimate sacrifice. Following Christ requires no less of us and even more.

Using the image of the soldier in uniform it is obvious that they represent our country... everyone sees and recognizes that. Jesus is saying something more than wearing a uniform

(an outward insignia) when He tells his disciples that they are more than representing Him...they are His presence to others. We hear Him say... 'Whoever receives you receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives the one who sent Me.' It is a big job...an awesome responsibility!

**Invitations to our dedication ceremony** went out to all members of the parish and all those associated with our community. Many responded and an equal number were not able to come that weekend with family and other obligations pressing upon them. However, it was a sincere invitation and for a very historic and meaningful event...our solemn dedication and blessing of the new facility and our use of it for God's good work and ministry.

**Now we hear Jesus expressing a prayer of praise and thanksgiving** to God the Father and extending an invitation... 'Come to me all who are weary and find life burdensome.' It appears to be a bit different from what we see in our political world right now. It seems that the rich and the powerful are the only ones worthy of invitation to special resorts and hotels...as long as they wield power, have money and are well healed they are welcomed. Jesus, on the other hand, extends a genuine welcome to those who struggle with life and the practice of their faith and trust in God.

Jesus wants His disciples to... 'Learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart.' Pope Francis is always reminding us of who we are as disciples of Jesus and how we are to always be mindful of those in need...of the poor. Our ministry is to being the love and compassion of Christ to everyone and we do well to learn from Him and His heart!

**TOTUS TUUS...is here this week.** The invitation is to 'Come and See'...for a day, an evening...for the whole week! Have fun! Learn more about Jesus! Learn how to live faith and love in your everyday life. Just come and drop in...you are welcome!