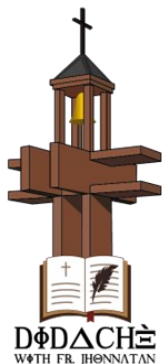


NEWSLETTER MAY 2024 DIDACHE



It has been a while since I wrote my last newsletter, and while I kind of promised to write a monthly newsletter, with the business of each day it has been a challenge to do so. That said, I feel I should write something this weekend because we have several different celebrations this weekend: we are celebrating the Solemnity of the Ascension, Mother's Day weekend and many graduations from high schools, colleges, and universities.

The celebration of the Ascension teaches us to focus and put our trust in the reality of heaven with our feet firmly on the ground.

It is interesting that Jesus talks about the reality of heaven in different parts of the Gospel. We can find an example with the Rich Young Man when he asked Jesus *"Teacher, what good must I do to gain eternal life?"* Jesus's answer is to fulfil the commandments, but the young man responded he had observed the commandments. Then Jesus goes a little further and asks him *"If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to [the] poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."*

Also, in another part of the Gospel Jesus teaches his disciples *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal (Mt. 6, 19-20).* We shall never forget that there is a reality that waits for us. *"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience."* — **Pierre Teilhard de Chardin**

Mother's Day celebration should be a thanksgiving for the life that we have received from our parents especially our mother who willingly accepts us and nourishes us. The gift of motherhood is so profound that even God wanted to have one.

Many of you have mentioned to me that some of your grandsons or granddaughters are graduating, particularly from college. We are living in difficult times and we pray for the safety and protection of all students, faculty, and staff on college campuses around the world. May all nations take the side of peace and help the Israelis and Palestinians to live in two states, side by side, in security and peace.

Finally, I would like to bring an update about our AMA 2024, and the projects that we have undertaken. So far we have 76 donors, \$42,408 (77% of parish goal). **The New Baptismal Chapel**, we got a donation from parishioners of \$8,000 for this specific project the total cost for the baptismal chapel was \$9,280.69. **Front and back and other kneelers**, we got a donation from a parishioner of \$4,349.12. For this specific project the total cost for this project is \$10,782.00. And perhaps a little more since the carpenter is not doing the cushions. For the **Main Sign** (see the pic), **building signs, and directional signs**, we are using only 'Western Red Cedar,' and the total cost for his signs is \$15,709.15 and probably \$3,000 more as we need to repaint some of the parking lot striping.

We need to get to about \$49,000 to provide the \$11,000 to Diocese, \$19,000 to parish operations, and \$19,000 to projects. On the baptismal chapel and kneelers, it is great that we have so much donation support beyond AMA. I am going to estimate \$8,000 total for both from AMA funds, leaving \$11,000 for other projects. Well, the signs more than consume \$11,000! We should thus probably take all of the funds here from maintenance, since one can make a good argument there and we do have a solid level of maintenance reserves. Perhaps we can allocate at least some of the remaining AMA funds towards improving the hall acoustics? This is a priority for many parishioners.

I hope all of you can support the AMA 2024 in order for us to accomplish these so much need projects, that we can make our parish more welcoming. And perhaps even more make our worship space more adequate and comfortable for all people.

Finally, the members of our Pastoral Council are going to compile and present to us a report of our parish survey. This weekend is the last chance to complete the survey so if you have not already done so, I ask you kindly to complete it by this weekend. We want to grow and serve you better, my prayers are for all of you, and thank you so much for your spiritual and financial support to our parish community.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Jhonnatan F. Carmona
Parish Priest.

