

The Glory of the Risen Christ will be known to the whole world!

My Dear Friends,

Easter celebrations are just behind us although the strength and blessings we have obtained through them remain with us in order to sustain our spirit and dedication to Our Loving Father.

St. Paul has written that everything we do should serve the glory of God. And exactly in that call all preparations at St. Joseph for the Holy Week and Easter have been done. Volunteers, your commitment and dedication were greatly appreciated by all who have attended our Church services at that time. May God bless all who worked so hard. As your Pastor I am proud that we have so many volunteers deeply engaged in parish life – thank you very much! For those of you who would like to be more active – please remember, we have always a spot for you to use your talents.

The Lenten season, as we all know, is a time where we should look more at our spiritual life and our relationship with God and others. As the letter from our Stewardship Committee has indicated (thank you very much for your guidance), we should also think about how to share our goods with others, especially with those in need. The answer from our parish was great again!

With proud heart I can say we have accomplished and reached the goal of the Diocesan Annual Appeal. I said “with proud heart” and I mean it. You have proved that the needs of people are on your hearts. And I know that many of you have given up not only extras of your means, but even a part of a home budget.

This way we have the opportunity to help people around the world with the assistance of our Diocese that always is looking at the needs of people as well as at our needs as a parish. Many of the means will bring help abroad – Japan, Haiti, the orphanage in Peru. Some of them will remain within our diocese to help the vocation program, the Catholic School System, which we are part of, and many other programs that our Diocese assists its faithful with.

We all repeat almost the same phrase when talking about how we are doing financially: “The economy is not good” and at some point we can agree with it. We can feel it in a most hard way in our wallet. In times like this we should think more about others who are in a worse situation than we are. Maybe you know someone who needs help. Please let us know. Some people as you know will never say that they are in need, but maybe you can see it.

We have several events to look forward to in the near future. We have a nice group of First Communion children this year. I really enjoyed spending some time with them when we had retreat. I want to thank parents for their involvement. The meetings with parents were well attended. Confirmation is coming also. So we will celebrate this event sharing the joy of receiving the Gifts of the Holy Spirit with the confirmandi and their families and friends. Please keep them all in your prayers.

One more event is approaching very fast, namely our Picnic in June. I am very much excited about it. I have attended Picnic meetings and we have a very well organized team and great volunteers so it should be a good time for all of us to attend this event, see each other and our friends. Except for Spiritual celebrations, this is the best time to extend our hospitality to others. But before the pleasure will take place we have many things to do. So if you are free to help and want to join the great people who work and also have fun, just JOIN US! Also please spread a GOOD word about our Picnic to others.

As we can feel it in the air summer is approaching with nice weather as well as vacation time. So I would like to wish all of you, especially children and youth, a great vacation. And I would like to remind you that we do not take vacation from Church. So please keep God and His commandments first and He will stay with you to support you and lift up your spirit.

I will go also on vacation (June 7 – July 22). This time I will not have to teach so I will have more time to spend with my parents. They are both 78. My mom had colon cancer 3 years ago and she is doing okay but not great. My dad fell from a tree last year and he spent the whole year at the hospital so this vacation time will be a special one for me. Also I will travel a couple of days to Austria to visit my priest friends who work there. A few days I will spend time in Rome, Italy where I also have friends; I love this city's atmosphere and the touch of time in it.

During my absence you will have three priests to substitute for me: Fr. Norman Boneck, who is a retired priest from our Diocese, a missionary priest, and a priest of the Food for the Poor organization. *Take the chance to have peace of mind from my preaching; they are all good preachers and they do not speak with a heavy accent.*

Lastly but with sincere heart, I would like to thank you for Easter cards, all good wishes, prayers and presents. Big thanks for my birthday wishes and gifts! May God Bless You all as you remain in my prayer.

Fr. Jerzy Rebacz