

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

I pray that everyone is having a blessed and joyous Easter season. As an Easter people, it is only right that we celebrate Easter for 50 days! As my childhood pastor taught me, we are the Children of God at play in the waters of baptism. Perhaps this is most true when I go through the church blessing you with holy water. The Easter season is a time to ponder the power of the Resurrection and how we have been saved. We do this, in part, through various devotions. On the Second Sunday of Easter we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. A great devotion to the mercy and love of Jesus that was honored with a Holy Hour during that most important 3:00 o'clock hour. We also celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday on the 4th Sunday of Easter recalling that Jesus constantly searches for the lost sheep of our world. Good Shepherd Sunday also comes with great thanksgiving for the shepherds of today who lead the People of God. These are just a couple of examples but I hope they show the great depth and richness of our Catholic Tradition. There are so many powerful ways in which we are drawn into the divine life of God.

May is also the month of Mary. There are a number of reasons why May became the month of Mary. One of them is because of the new life seen in the season of spring and its connection with motherhood. Over time various Marian traditions became associated with May and the tradition continued. In 1945, Pope Pius XII solidified May as a Marian month after establishing the feast of the Queenship of Mary on May 31st. That feast has since moved to August 22nd and the feast of the Visitation of Mary is now celebrated on May 31st.

With Mary as our patroness, I encourage us to spend some time with her this month. It is said that the quickest way to Jesus is through Mary. Throughout her life she interceded for people and this is seen most clearly in the Wedding at Cana. Here people come to her desperate because they may lose their livelihood if the wedding feast fails. What does Mary do? She goes right to her Son. She then says to the waiters, "Do whatever he tells you". A life of fulfillment and happiness is found when we do whatever Jesus tells us to do. Mary showed great fidelity to the will of God particularly in her Fiat, her yes, to be the Mother of God. That did not lead to an easy life. She experienced great suffering and grief. Yet, it did lead her to a life of fulfillment and holiness. She endured the many piercings of her heart not on her own accord but with the grace of God to which she so totally surrendered.

During this beautiful month let us turn with a renewed devotion, while still having the joy of Easter, to our Blessed Mother. Let us ask her, along with her Risen Son, to lead us to a life of surrender and holiness. That is to say to a life of fulfillment and joy.

Holy Mary, Mother of God...pray for us!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz
Administrator