

June 15, 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I've been asked what occasioned my comments a few weeks ago about how we dress for Mass and last week's "reflections and reminders" on how we comport ourselves at the liturgy. The answer to the question is simple: over a lengthy period of time I've noticed that our manners at church were in need some brushing up. Each of the items I mentioned are concerns generated by what I've observed a number of times and also things that parishioners have commented on from time to time. Related to my reflections and reminders last week is the following. Every parish in the Archdiocese is now required to have a Safety Committee. I'm grateful to our Safety Committee for the work they do in assuring the safety of our children in all aspects of parish life. Fortunately, we have not experienced any problems in regard to child safety -- and we'd like to keep things that way. I recently brought a question to the Safety Committee about children visiting the restrooms (upstairs or downstairs) during Mass. The Committee's response is helpful and I ask you to comply with it:

"To ensure a safe environment in our parish, children who need to visit the restrooms during Mass must be accompanied by an adult."

The Safety Committee recommends that children in the sixth grade or older not be subject to this restriction. Your cooperation with this policy will help ensure a safe environment for our children. If you have any questions or comments about what I've written on these matters, please be in touch: FrAustinFleming@aol.com or 55 Church Street - Concord, MA 01742.

On the weekend of July 7/8, a missionary priest will be with us at all the Masses. Each year, every parish in the archdiocese must host a missionary who asks us to assist the work of those spreading the gospel in mission territories. Please welcome our visitor! This coming weekend (June 23/24) our summer schedule begins with Mass on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday mornings at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. This schedule will run through Labor Day weekend.

We recently sent a parish-wide mailing of information regarding our faith formation programs. (If you did not receive this mailing, you are not registered in the parish and we invite you to do so: parish registration forms are available at the church doors.) This mailing included registration materials for the redesigned program for '07-'08. While we will be offering grade-level classes on weekday afternoons (10 one and a half hour classes split between the two semesters) there will be "faith festivals" at the beginning of each semester and at the close of the second. (While thematically connected to the children's curriculum, the faith festivals will be of interest and open to ALL in the parish!) These events will be in the style of our Generations of Faith gatherings over the past three years and are part of the year's program and curriculum for the children. **As in the past, it is our expectation that one or both parents from each family will accompany their child(ren) to the faith festival.** That being the case, we need to know how many parents will be coming to the faith festivals. Our registration form may have been unclear on this point: we have received a number of forms on which parents did not indicate if one or both parents would be attending the faith festivals. We need to know in so that we can make plans and accurately order food and materials. **So...**

- **If you have not yet sent in your registration form (due date: June 15):** please be sure to indicate on the registration form the names of parents who will join us for the faith festivals.

- **If you have already sent in your registration form and did not indicate the names of parents who will attend the faith festivals:** please call the parish office to let us know and we will make the appropriate change(s) on your form.

• If you know of families who have registered already but who may not see this notice, please share this information with them.

Sincerely,
Fr. Fleming