

August 4, 2006

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

When you read this I will have already left for three weeks of vacation. I'll be on the Cape for two weeks but I haven't yet made definite plans for my third week. While I'm away I'm grateful to Fr. Vincent Burke for covering August 5-19 and Fr. Walter Cuenin for covering August 20-26. (I'll be back to celebrate the 5:00 Mass on August 26.)

This week's bulletin brings you two letters, the one in hand and the other from two of our young parishioners who recently spent a week on one of our three "summer service trips." This is an outstanding program in our parish life and their letter is testimony to that. Their letter also details an outreach effort they are planning and I know that you will be, as you always are, generous in your response.

As you know, it has long been my plan to move into the parish rectory in Monument Square. Having received the recommendations of the Parish Buildings and Grounds Commission and with the agreement of the Parish Staff, Pastoral Council and Finance Council, I have asked Buildings and Grounds Commission to begin the process for making some necessary improvements in the pastor's rooms. Given our parish financial situation, I will ask them to make those improvements as modestly and cost-efficiently as possible. I would be pleased if by early this fall the rooms will be ready for my occupancy. I look forward to sharing the rectory with Fr. Michael Medas who has been in residence there for several years. Michael coordinates the Archdiocesan Ministry to the Deaf and celebrates some of our daily liturgies in the parish.

I have also asked Buildings and Grounds to prepare to act on the proposal for removing two walls in classrooms in the basement of Monument Hall and to investigate the possibility and cost of replacing them with accordion dividers to make the space more versatile. After Labor Day, I will continue to discuss the other B&G proposals with the Parish Staff and the Pastoral and Finance Councils.

I was going to write that the air conditioning of the church has been warmly received and then realized that *warmly* wasn't quite the right word! On the other hand, writing that the air conditioning has been *coolly* received doesn't hit the mark either. Let's just say everyone who has spoken to me about it is pleased, the only complaint being that we might have "too much of a good thing" in just how cool it gets. I have adjusted the levels to what I hope and believe is something comfortable for all. If you're still a little chilly, a light sweater might be helpful.

I hope that your summer has had some restful, peaceful and cool moments... It's not easy to accept that Labor Day is around the corner but, with you, I look forward to the return of those who have been away and the renewal of many parish activities.

Sincerely
Fr. Fleming

