

August 5, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I know you've heard others say this but let me add my voice to the chorus: "I can't believe it's August and that Labor Day is around the corner!" I can't believe it - and I don't like it! Can anyone explain to me why January - February - March drags on like six months while June - July- August speed by like six weeks? And February is even short a few days!

I'll be leaving for a couple of week's vacation (including two weekends) on August 15 (which, because it falls on a Monday this year is still a holy day but *not* a day of obligation: Mass will be celebrated at Holy Family at 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on the 15th). I'm looking forward to getting away and taking it easy - and I hope you've had (or will have) some time for the same before the days start getting even shorter.

I wrote about going on vacation a few weeks ago in the Concord Journal and on my blog at <http://ConcordPastor.blogspot.com> - then scroll down to July 15. I'm going to try to put into practice what I wrote about "Summertime... and the prayin' is easy..."

As you can see on the weekends, vacation schedules deplete our numbers at the Lord's Table. Nonetheless, I've noticed that our singing at Mass this summer has been excellent! We may have fewer voices but our full voiced praise in song hasn't suffered. As much as I don't want to see summer end, it will be good to have everyone back together in the fall.

While I'm away, Fr. John Kiwanuka will be here in my place. You'll remember Fr. John from last summer when he visited from Uganda. - I know he remembers you warmly and is looking forward to some time with us again.

The parish office has been very busy with higher than usual "summer traffic" through the doors, over the phone and online. And our parish staffers have been busy with summer programs and planning for the fall and the beginning of a "new year" of parish activity. Strange, isn't it? The civil year begins on January 1. The liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent. But the "parish year" begins just after Labor Day!

It seems that over the past month or so, more than the usual number of folks have asked me to pray for them or for someone they love. Folks ask for prayers for the sick, the injured, the unemployed, those estranged from family - and for many too many reasons to list here. It's a good thing to ask others to pray for us and with us. We need to pray for the needs of all the people of our parish, for all who have asked for our prayers, and for ourselves. If you have a few extra minutes in these last weeks of summer, please pray for those who need prayers - and know that others will be praying for you.

I won't be writing Sunday letters while I'm away so my next epistle will come to you on Labor Day weekend which is the last weekend on our summer schedule. We'll return to the regular Sunday Mass schedule on the weekend of September 11... On that weekend, as is our custom, the 11:30 Mass will be celebrated al fresco in the yard behind the rectory.

And may I hear a round of grateful applause to all who have set up, served and cleaned up for our summertime Coffee and Donuts after Mass on Sunday mornings? They are doing a great job and will continue to provide this service for us through Labor Day weekend.

Sincerely,
Fr. Fleming