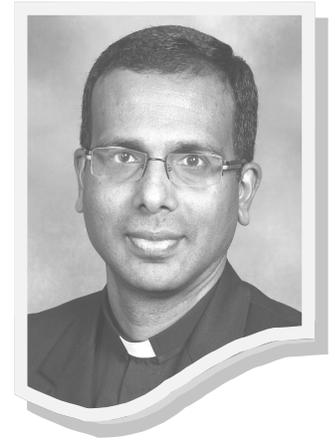




From the Pastor



International Food Fest

Here is an opportunity to enjoy delicious food from a number of countries in one place. Come hungry at 5 p.m. next Saturday, May 18th, to the Parish Community Center on 27th Street. I can't wait to go to it! This is not just a food festival but a community-building event to support the two religious orders of the nuns in our parish, the Sisters of Mary of Kakamega and the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco. They are helping us in our parish mission to Educate, Evangelize, and Care. We are deeply appreciative of their presence and their support in our mission.

The Salesian Sisters are doing an amazing job in the classrooms. The Salesian Sisters, officially known as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (*Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice* [FMA]), is a religious community of women founded by St. John Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello in 1872 in Mornese, Italy. Their mission is to provide Christian education and formation to the young. The key characteristics of the spirit and charism of the Salesians find its expression in Eucharist, Confession, devotion to Our Lady, fidelity to the Pope, pastoral charity, joy and optimism, hard work, and community living. Don Bosco had a comprehensive concept of education. He says, "Education is a matter of the heart, of which the Lord is the master." We are so blessed to have the Sisters in our school. Next school year, we will have three Sisters teaching in the school full time.

The Sisters of Mary of Kakamega provide wonderful care for the elderly. As a congregation, the Sisters of Mary are primarily engaged in the work of Evangelization through missionary activities with the aim of witnessing to the Gospel and pursuing perfect Charity by following Jesus Christ in living community life. The Congregation was started by the late Bishop Brandsma, a Mill Hill Missionary in 1932 in the Diocese of Kakamega in Kenya. What began in 1932 with only five girls, today has over 350 Sisters spread across Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, and the U.S.A.

The Sisters of Mary have dedicated themselves to apostolic activities such as teaching, care of the sick, catechesis, communication, social work, and other forms of Evangelization. The Charism of the Institute is to share in the Redemptive Mission of Jesus Christ, the Great Teacher and Healer. Their spirituality is lived out by following the Augustinian spirituality characterized by faith in God, interiority, love and apostolic service, discovering God in community, Holy Scripture as a primary place of encountering God, and promotion of justice, unity, harmony, peace, and reconciliation.

Let us support these Religious Orders of the Nuns in our parish by participating in the International Food Fest. Get the word out. Bring your friends and neighbors. I am sure all will find something they would enjoy. Come hungry!

Happy Mother's Day

"Honor your Father and Mother" is a commandment that God gave us years before mother's day was established. The greatest legacy a mother can leave for her children is an exemplary life of faith. Your virtuous life of faith will remain as an inspiration for the entire lives of your children. The best gift that children can give to their parents is their faith-filled life. Virtuous children give true joy to their parents. THANK YOU, mothers, for your sacrifices. There are no substitutes for what you do.

Bishop's Annual Appeal

Next weekend is also the Parish **Commitment Weekend** for the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Please remember to bring your appeal envelopes to Mass. We will have envelopes in the pews for those who may not have received one. Thank you all for your participation.

—Fr. Jose Thomas