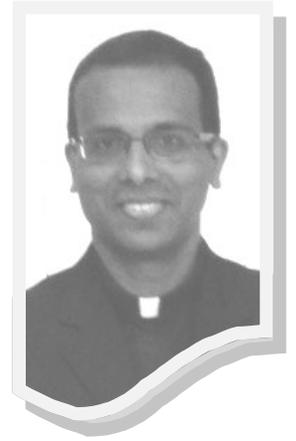




From the Pastor



He surprises ...

When I shared with you my vision for our parish last October, I had envisioned having a few nuns to teach in our school in the next 3–5 years. But it looks like God wants us to have them earlier than we planned for. As you might know by now, we have been blessed with some religious nuns to teach full time in our school starting next school year. Bishop and I wrote letters to three different religious orders, and two of them replied that they had no personnel at this time. However, the third religious order, the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco, responded in January of this year, saying that they would like to consider our request. A few weeks later, I received a call from the provincial superior who said that she would like to send a couple of nuns for a tour of our school facility. A date was decided upon, and the nuns came for a tour. They visited with me, School Principle Crystal Nunez-Mooney, Superintendent of Schools in the diocese Dr. Dennis Dempsey, and Bishop Cary.

The nuns who came to study the feasibility were really impressed—and based on their report—their provincial council made their decision and took it to their Mother Superior in Rome for her blessing. I was then informed that they wished to accept our invitation to come here to help us in the school. All this happened in a matter of two months. God seems to be working overtime. It is difficult to keep up with Him! I guess He wants us to take giant strides and not small steps. I wish there was more time to prepare the school and the parish for this transition. But who am I stand in the way of God accomplishing His plan for our community?

God has surprised us in many ways, and this is yet another one. We have two teaching positions open in the school for the coming year. So there will be two nuns teaching in the school full time starting next school year. There will be a third nun staying in the community (three are needed to make a community), who will be promoting vocations. I am confident that they will find vocations for their religious order in our parish, in our diocese—and in the Northwest. I will be writing more about the Religious Order of the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco in the coming weeks.

Changes are never easy for anyone. So I ask all the prayer groups in our parish and all of you to pray for our school, our parish, and the nuns who will be coming. The nuns plan to be here on **Monday, August 6th**. They will stay at a temporary housing until the parish house for nuns is complete. I am very grateful to Dennis Murphy of Hayden Homes and the building committee who are working to complete the project. Let me know if anyone else wishes to be part of this exciting project.

* * *

Welcome to Caleb Cunningham

We will be welcoming Caleb Cunningham to St. Francis Parish on **Tuesday, June 12th**. He is a seminarian at Mt. Angel for the Diocese of Baker. He has completed two years of Theology, and he will be spending his Pastoral year with us until next summer. He will be assisting Janet Schwarz with youth ministry and Deacon Steve with liturgy and stewardship during his stay with us. My hope is that by the time he leaves, we will be able to hire someone for full-time youth ministry and campus ministry.

—Fr. Jose Thomas