



From the Pastor



BLESSINGS RECEIVED

We had a wonderful Parish Mission, and many are the blessings received. We were uniquely privileged and honored to have the pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima with the Immaculate Heart with us for five days. This was one of the six statues that Pope Francis blessed at the beginning of this year—one for each continent. She could have been in thousands of other places in the North American Continent. But she chose to be with us at St. Francis for five days. On Wednesday, the children and staff of our school offered her flowers and joined to celebrate the Holy Mass in the presence of Our Lady of Fatima. After Mass, the Holy Eucharist was exposed for Adoration, and they said the most favorite prayer of our Blessed Mother—the Rosary—reflecting on the glorious mysteries. In the evening of the same day, all the children and our Religious Education youth offered flowers to our Blessed Mother, listened to a talk by the Missionaries and received the Brown Scapular of Our Lady. On Thursday morning, our school children and the staff were there again before the Blessed Sacrament to pray the Rosary and to be invested by the Brown Scapular of our Lady. On Thursday evening, our Latino Community gathered around our Blessed Mother to celebrate Holy Mass, listen to a talk by the Missionaries and took our Blessed Mother in a candlelight procession while reciting the Rosary.

On Friday evening, about 120 parishioners gathered to celebrate the Holy Mass, listened to the talk by the Missionaries and prayed the Rosary with the candlelight procession. At the beginning of the celebration, I consecrated the Parish of St. Francis to the Immaculate Heart of Jesus. The Blessed Sacrament was exposed after the procession for all-night Adoration. Confessions were heard until 10:30 p.m. by three priests while the Missionaries gave talks. Holy Mass was celebrated on Saturday morning, followed by more confessions and talks until 3 p.m. About 70 people attended the whole of Saturday. Two confessors heard confessions in the evening again. The Mission continued at all weekend Masses with a Pro-Life Rosary, a talk by the Missionaries, consecration of families, and the blessing and distribution of the Brown Scapulars. It was wonderful to have the Bishop celebrate the Saturday evening Mass and consecrate the Diocese of Baker to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. An incredible moment indeed!

Though the attendance was disappointing for Friday and Saturday, those who did attend loved it and received many blessings. There was a number of people who came to Confession after a very long time. Someone mentioned to me that her spouse, who never loved coming to church, had a very positive experience after the Friday evening service. I have heard numerous other, very positive comments. As a result of the Mission, the Lord has opened up the path for us to have all-night Adoration every first Friday, starting at 8 p.m. and ending with Benediction before the Mass at 8 a.m. on Saturday. This is living the message of Fatima and living the fruits of our Mission by having devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Communion of Reparation, or First Saturday Devotion, is what we are asked to do to promote the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Remember the Message the Missionaries left with us: **CARE**—**C**onfession, **A**doration, **R**osary and **E**ucharist.

—Father Jose