

+++ *From the Pastor* +++  
*Sunday, July 26, 2015*

New carpet and vinyl flooring have been installed in the parish offices. There are a few details that need to be addressed before this project is completed, but I believe we will be able to begin moving back into the offices this week. I realize that this project has been a disruption, and I appreciate the patience of everyone in our parish. I especially appreciate the patience and understanding of those who make use of our food bank.

We needed to close the food bank last week in order to finish this job, but we were still able to assist people with vouchers for gasoline and emergency shelter. It was difficult to turn people away, when they realized our food bank was closed, but it reminded me of how vital and important this service is to those in need. I was also given to thanking God for the generosity and kindness of so many people in our parish who keep the food bank going through your financial contributions and food donations. Those who staff the food bank bring a gentle and kind presence to people when they need tenderness the most. By taking care of them we are taking care of Christ Himself as He teaches us in the Gospels.

So, again, thank you for your patience. I am truly grateful that we had the resources for this project made possible by generous contributions to our parish SOC fund.

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Today, and for the next four Sundays, we will be meditating upon the great mystery of the Eucharist as so beautifully proclaimed to us by Christ in the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John. In this chapter, known as the Eucharistic Discourse, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ teaches all people, of all times, places and circumstances, the supreme and glorious Truth regarding the gift of His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Most Holy and Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

This gift of love, mercy, and compassion is real spiritual food and real spiritual drink poured into our souls as we make our pilgrim journey to the Father. Today, as we begin to contemplate this mysterious gift, Jesus performs a miracle of love, taking a few loaves and a few fish to feed at least five thousand men. This miracle sets the stage, as it were, for the Good News to come: that Jesus in His kindness and mercy will continue to feed, strengthen, console and gladden the hearts of His brothers and sisters down through the long centuries with His own Flesh and Blood.

As we listen once again this summer to Jesus announcing the magnificence of His Real and Abiding Presence in the Eucharist, may we take time to thank Him for every time we have received Him. May our meditation on the Eucharistic Discourse strengthen our love for Christ truly present in all of the Tabernacles of the World. May God grant you a peaceful week in His service.