

+++ *From the Pastor* +++
Sunday, June 14, 2015

Today I will be leaving for a couple of weeks on a pilgrimage to Rome and other places in Italy and Switzerland. This pilgrimage has been arranged by Mount Angel Abbey. We will be visiting places which were significant in the life of Saint Benedict, the founder of the Order of Saint Benedict of whom the monks of Mount Angel Abbey are members. I will be traveling with my friend and classmate, Fr. Pius X Harding, O.S.B. who is the Director of Oblates for the abbey. He will be the Spiritual Director for this pilgrimage.

Everyday I will be concelebrating Holy Mass with Fr. Pius and another priest who will also be on the pilgrimage. The intentions written in my notebook will be remembered in a particular way at each Mass. I will pray for everyone in our parish every day that I am away and I humbly ask to be remembered in your prayers, too.

While on this pilgrimage I will make a solemn and formal commitment to live as a Benedictine Oblate of Mount Angel Abbey. An oblate is a person who is not a monk but who wishes to share in the spiritual benefits of being associated with a particular abbey by living the Rule of Saint Benedict in the ordinary circumstances of life. Also, on June 24, the Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, I will celebrate my twenty-second anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

Father John Wagner, Represents Food For the Poor June 20-21

This coming weekend, June 20-June 21, Rev. John R. Wagner, a priest representing Food For the Poor will be filling in for me. At all of the Masses Father Wagner will speak about a ministry which provides direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Father Wagner will share personal witness about Food for the Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another.

Fr. Wagner was ordained in 1964 for the Diocese of San Diego. Besides serving in many parishes as a pastor, he was a member of the Music Commission for the diocese and Music Director for many choirs before joining Food for the Poor.

Most Rev. Liam Cary Visits Cathedral June 27-28

Bishop Cary will be visiting the cathedral and filling in for me June 27-28. However, he will not be offering Holy Mass at St. Thérèse in Halfway.

Emergency Assistance Available

During the weeks that I will be away on pilgrimage, if you are in need of the assistance of a priest, the priests in Ontario and La Grande will be happy to help. The phone number for Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Ontario is: 541-889-8469. The phone number for Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in La Grande is: 541-963-7341.

May God bless and keep all of you safe while I am away.

