

SAID ED March 30, 2014

Lent and the "Ultimate things"

Today we celebrate "Laetare Sunday". This Latin word means "rejoice!" This day traditionally marks a "breather" - time taken out from Lent to remind ourselves that Lent is more than half over. We are steadily progressing toward Easter, the celebration that is the foundation of our faith. In ages gone by the vestments of the day were sometimes colored pink, signifying the break in the strict fast of Lent. Those days for the most part have gone by and I'm just as glad because I don't look that good in pink. But it is nonetheless day on which we thank God for the blessings which we have experienced thus far as we prepare ourselves for a few more weeks of Lent and Holy week.

As we rejoice this Sunday, I call your attention to our newly re-installed Carillon. You may have noticed that for many months the bells that strike on the quarter hour have been silenced and along with them the familiar hymn tunes which welcome us to Mass. The original Carillon was installed under Fr. Norris over thirty years ago. After many years of faithful service the system had a mechanical breakdown. These familiar chimes pealed from our church from about 8:00am until 9:00pm.. I have gotten used to hearing them all day. After several parishioners asked what happened to them we began researching on how we could restore them.

I'm happy to report that through the generosity of Ed and Betty DeLooze our Carillon has been restored to working order, in fact the mechanical version of the Carillon has been upgraded to a digital system with no moving parts. These beautiful bells will once again enhance our presence in the village. Ed and Betty DeLooze provided funding for the restoration of our Carillon in memory of their parents Ed and Bertha DeLooze and Bernard and Estelle McGuire. May this beautiful instrument bring joy to our hearts and glory to God as time moves all forward on our earthly journey. Thanks to Ed and Betty for their generosity.

I hope that you have had the chance to take advantage of the many Lenten opportunities for prayer, devotion and faith formation during this special season. If not, now is the time to recommit ourselves to the journey of Lent. It is a good investment in making your Easter more powerful. Lent is a time in which we think more about the "ultimate things" of our lives. We have had several funerals during this long winter and many of these families of our deceased brothers and sisters have taken care to place their mortal remains in our Columbarium. Shirley, our parish secretary who manages this place of rest, tells me that as of this writing we have only 165 niches left in this beautiful facility. If you are thinking about reserving a place in the Columbarium, you may wish to give Shirley a call in our office soon.

Let's be praying for each other as we journey through Lent 2014 that our celebration of Easter may draw us closer to our risen Lord at Easter.
Have a great week!

