

## A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

Today is the last day in the Octave of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. The Church treats these eight days as if they were each Easter Sunday morning. The reason for these eight solemnities in a row is because it is really not enough to celebrate Easter for just one morning or even one full day. The octave gives us one full week and then some to give thanks for and marvel at the miracle of the Resurrection with great joy. Indeed, the Easter season stretches on for seven weeks, even longer than Lent, to make sure we all have adequate time to ponder the way in which the Resurrection of Jesus has forever changed the world. Never again should Christians look upon death as the final word, for just as Christ rose from the dead, so too will those who believe in Him. We cannot forget the cross just as we cannot forget the life that comes after the cross. We have to set our hearts on heaven.

I spoke at all the Masses last Sunday to greet everyone and give thanks to God for our Easter faith. I also attempted to thank everyone beginning with Msgr. Barry and Fr. Tom. Next I thanked Deacon Schiebe and Deacon Kenny (who will be ordained a priest next month). I also thank Fr. Donal the priest who assists on Sundays. Their work here is invaluable! I thank all of our parish staff and all of our volunteers. I cannot say enough good things about staff and volunteers. They do so much, often behind the scenes, to keep the parish strong and running smoothly. We certainly seek to do the Lord's work here everyday!

May God keep us strong in our faith and filled with Easter joy.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Monsignor Giandurco*