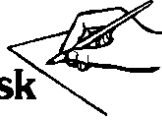


**From the
Pastor's Desk**

Dear Parishioners,

Through the information that you received this weekend on the proposed renovation/refurbishing project for the church and the addition of classrooms for religious education, I hope that everyone now has a clear idea of what we hope to accomplish in meeting the needs of the parish in terms of facilities. If you were not able to stay after Mass for the session to learn more than what I presented before Mass and to ask questions, please let me know if you have any questions or comments by contacting me. I hope that what has been proposed is something that all of us will be supportive of not only financially, but also spiritually by our praying for its success and that we do all for the glory of God and for the building up of our children, youth, and all of us in the formation of our Catholic faith.

As I have said in the past, I want this process of updating our parish buildings to be not only an enhancement of our physical facilities but also to take this as an opportunity to grow spiritually, that doing so reminds us of the most important renovation: the constant renewal and growth of our spiritual life whereby we grow in the knowledge of our faith and interiorly our hearts and souls, as the temples of the indwelling of the Holy Trinity by Baptism, are constantly "refurbished" and "renovated" to become all the more fittingly sanctuaries for the presence of God. To this end, I will be offering some spiritual opportunities as we go through this new stage in the life of our parish's growth and development. One of the first things I want us to do is to have a special celebration of the feast day of St. Joseph, our parish's patron saint, on March 19th with a novena leading up to St. Joseph's feast whereby we

pray through St. Joseph's intercession for the spiritual renewal of our hearts and souls and the success of our building project. I will give you more details in the near future. In the next few weeks, I will be gone for several days. First, I am going to attend the episcopal ordination of bishop-elect Edward Rice in St. Louis on January 13 who has been appointed by Pope Benedict as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. We were in seminary together, so it will be a special occasion for me to share in the joy of seeing him elevated to the episcopacy. I will thus be in St. Louis on the 13th and 14th. Then, I am going to take some days of vacation next weekend (the 15th and 15th) and the following week since I have not taken any vacation days for quite some time. Finally, I will be gone January 22-25 to be one of the leaders in the Pilgrimage for Life to Washington, D.C. that the archdiocesan office I direct, the Catholic Faith Formation Office, sponsors for adults with Nebraskans United for Life for persons to have the opportunity to participate in the annual National March for Life. If I am not able to get a priest to cover for all of the weekday Masses, I may have to have a deacon do a communion service some of the days. Of course, a priest will be here for confessions and Masses on the weekends that I am gone.

Have a wonderful week.

God bless,

Fr. Gutowski

TODAY'S WORD

My brothers and sisters in Christ, today we remember the baptism of Jesus and recall that we, too, are baptized and called by God. As we renew our baptismal promises, let us pray that someday each of us will hear the voice of God proclaim, "This is my beloved in whom I am well pleased."