

# THE PASTOR'S DESK

June 20, 2010 - Trains



Dear Parishioners,

I've Been Working on the Railroad.

I have a CD which contains nothing but the sound of a train from New York to Chicago during a series of thunderstorms. It sure beats counting sheep to fall asleep. If you have ever been on a train, you know the comforting sound of the rhythmic clakety-clack, clackety clack. It is a sweet sound of reassurance, almost like white noise.

Traveling at such high speed, the last thing that you want to think about is the train derailing. At one time in railroad history, that was a common problem. But today, you rarely hear of it. With advances in safety measures and improvement in steel, safety can be counted upon.

Let's think about derailing for a moment. Sometimes our lives are so topsy turvy and full of responsibility that it feels as if we are going at twice the speed of sound. Sometimes we are traveling at such high speeds we have to triage and pass by our duties, just like a train missing a station and leaving passengers behind. It can be maddening and frustrating, but that is the modern world.

The docile sound of the clackety clack turns into a cacophony of sirens, noise and people shouting at each other at the top of their lungs. Sometimes we make very wrong choices when we are going so fast. We don't pray because we say we have no time (have you ever heard of a twenty four-hour day — what's your excuse)?

Parents don't go to Mass, nor do their children, because there is a soccer game or a swimming meet the kids have to attend (have you ever heard of the family being the domestic church)?

What is the end result? We derail, of course, and the crash is loud and terrible. It sometimes shakes us to the core, and for a while our world is turned upside down.

Yet for the Christian, the person who has given their hearts to Christ, there is hope. Even when we crash and burn, we live and learn, because when we are at wits end, Jesus ties the strong knot at the end and lifts us to safety.

The simple solution to traveling too fast and at dangerous speeds is to slow our lives down. But we have to ask our Lord to give us the strength and the courage to do that. We cannot do it ourselves, we should not wait for that terrible wake up call.

One of the many memorable phrases in the Holy Mass is "free us from evil and protect us from all anxiety." That comes from 1 Peter 5:7: "Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you."

When we take the time to pray, and read God's Holy Word, and take advantage of the Sacraments, our anxiety level rapidly decreases. As St. Paul says of Jesus: "He is our peace." I am sure there have been many times in your Christian walk that a season of prayer, time with the Word, or the sweet savour of the Sacraments of Holy Communion or Confession have restored your soul. The feeling is of incredible lightness.

In the end our assurance and reassurance comes when we bring our docile hearts, minds, and souls to the feet of Jesus. He is the conductor on the train, we are not. We are just passengers heading for the final station, Heaven.

The beautiful thing is that, by his death, Jesus paid our fare.

**All Aboard,  
Fr. William**

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## Change in Mass Schedule

Fr. Jose's first weekend will be on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Starting that Sunday, there will be a change on the Mass schedule. Because he will have the Spanish Mass at St. Rose at 1:00 pm, **our Mass in Spanish will have to move back to 5:00 pm.** The Mass in the **Extraordinary Form will then move to 1:30 pm.**

There will be a welcome reception for Fr. Jose after the 5:00 pm Mass. If you can help plan and organize the event, please contact Deacon Carlo at 301-977-0972. There are also sign-up sheets in the church foyer, for any help you can give. All are invited.