

# THE PASTOR'S DESK

September 13, 2009 - Renewal of Pastor's Promise



## Dear Parishioners,

I have had so many of you come up to tell me that the installation last Sunday was such a beautiful ceremony. Many of you have probably not seen that ceremony. Archbishop Wuerl has reinstated it in the Archdiocese of Washington. It gives him an opportunity to visit and to offer Mass at the parishes in the Archdiocese. But, it also shows the unity of the local Church of Washington as well as the connection between the Archbishop and the Pastors.

The bishop is the chief pastor of the diocese. In the very early Church this meant that the Bishop celebrated the liturgy on Sunday and the Deacons took the Eucharist out to the people who could not come to the liturgy. When you have a small community located in close proximity in a small, ancient city, this can work well. But, as the faith spread, the need to have priests became apparent. In fact, by the year 100, we have references in the letters of St. Ignatius of Antioch to the Priests of the diocese working with the bishop. In his letter to the Ephesians, Saint Ignatius writes: "It is fitting, therefore, that you should be in agreement with the mind of the bishop as in fact you are. Your excellent presbyters [Priests], who are a credit to God, are as suited to the bishop as strings to a harp. So in harmony of mind and heart the song you sing is Jesus Christ." Priests are given a share of the priesthood of the bishop in order that they may govern and minister in his name in the various parishes.

To bring out both of these aspects, the ceremony required me to renew my promise of obedience to the bishop and to make a profession of faith. These are good things for me to repeat and good things for you to hear. In all the administrative and social activities of the pastor, it is easy to forget who I am and why I'm here. The promises I made help to remedy this: (1.) *I promise to always preserve communion with Catholic Church;* (2.) *I promise to carry out the duties incumbent upon me toward the Church, both universal and particular;* (3.) *I promise to hold fast to the deposit of faith in its entirety; I shall hand on and explain it, and I shall avoid teachings contrary to it;* (4.) *I shall follow and foster the common discipline of the entire Church and I shall maintain the observance of all ecclesiastical laws;* (5.) *I shall follow the Bishop, as authentic teachers of the faith;* and (6.) *I shall faith-*

*fully assist the diocesan Bishops, so that the apostolic activity, exercised in the name and by the mandate of the Church, may be carried out in communion with the Church.*

These promises set the priorities I have as pastor. They are focused on my mission to teach the faith, to maintain the unity of the Church and to build up the Church in holiness and worship. As I said at the end of the Installation Mass, please pray for me as I pray for you. My responsibility here is both cause for joy and for fear and trembling. But, we all rely on the Lord to complete the good work He begins in all of us.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all who helped bring about the Installation Mass. Deacon Bob was the Master of Ceremonies and the one who pulled it all together behind the scenes. Deacon Gene did a wonderful job proclaiming the Gospel. Mary Lu Hartsell and the choir really presented the music beautifully. The altar servers, the lectors, and the ushers all did their usual excellent job. Thanks, also, to the Knights of Columbus Color Corp for adding dignity and ceremony. Finally, thanks to all of you for your prayers, welcome, and support. Being your pastor is a privilege. Pray that I exercise this privilege with the pastoral Heart of Jesus.

**God bless,  
Fr. LaHood**

### **Saturday Social is back on September 26th**

You are invited to a supper immediately following the 5pm Vigil Mass. The main course for the meal as well as beverages will be provided by the parish while parishioners will be asked to bring salads, side dishes and desserts. Those coming will need to sign up so we can sure to have enough food. At the conclusion of the meal, there will be activities for young children. The adults and older children will break into groups to reflect on and discuss the Scripture readings for the next Sunday's Mass. Then everyone will be invited to join in a sing along which will include both folk and sacred music. The gathering will end with a prayer around 8:15pm. We do need some volunteers to work with children; to receive side dishes; or help with set-up/clean-up.

### **Mark Your Calendars: October 6th at 7:00 pm**

St. Luke Productions presents "VIANNEY", the gripping story of the remarkable priest who battled the devil to save souls. Tickets will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth 17 and under. Sign-up now for tickets by calling the rectory at 301-977-5492. In this "Year of the Priests", this performance would be a great way in the spirit to pray for vocations. So come join in the celebration.