

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Parishioners,

Easter Blessings! Yes, Easter is a Sacred Season of fifty days and not simply celebrated on one single day. During Lent we prepared over a period of forty-days through prayer, fasting, abstinence, charitable service and almsgiving for this great feast and now we have the opportunity to celebrate it over a fifty-day period.

On Easter Sunday each of us renewed our baptismal promises. The Easter Season is meant for us to deepen our appreciation of what it means to be a baptized member of the Body of Christ and the Catholic Church. In effect, we are to look for opportunities through which we can live out our baptismal call. I'd like to share with you one way that we can do this together.

You might recall that last Christmas Day our neighbors at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Levittown experienced a devastating fire that destroyed much of the interior of their beloved church building. I called the church the very next day to see if there might be a way in which we could assist them. Perhaps, they could use Delaney Hall for their Sunday Church services. They were grateful for my call but didn't need our space for their services.

I thought at the time that there must be some other way that we could reach out to them with our help. It came to me that during the Easter Season we celebrate what is referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. I spoke with the members of our Finance Committee about my desire to hold a special collection after each of the Masses that weekend to raise money to assist Pastor Remo Madsen in the rebuilding and restoration of Good Shepherd Church. Each member of the committee thought that this would be an appropriate way to offer them our help.

Therefore, as we have started to announce, several of the *Kidz for Christ*, who are the young members of our St. Vincent DePaul Society, joined by our Scouts will stand outside of the Church after each of the Masses on April 24th and 25th to take a freewill offering from you, our parishioners, which we will pass on to Pastor Madsen and his church community.

What a wonderful way for us to celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday by reaching out to our Christian brothers and sisters at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to help them in the rebuilding and restoring of their church!

I pray that each of us will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to demonstrate our faith and common concern for the people of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Together with our best wishes and prayers I am sure that our loving support will be gratefully received by them and help them in the work that lies ahead of the rebuilding of their church.

F. John