

FROM THE PASTOR

OCTOBER 2, 2022

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE HOLY ROSARY: On October 7th, the Church will keep the liturgical commemoration of Our Lady of the Rosary. This is a what is called a votive feast, i.e., it commemorates an historical event in the life of the Church and in world history. The event commemorated is the great naval battle of Lepanto which occurred on Sunday, October 7th, 1571. The battle was between the Christian forces of Europe against the Moslem Turks. A great Rosary crusade had begun weeks before the battle. The Christian forces were victorious though greatly outnumbered. After the battle, the pope decreed that each year on its anniversary as a perpetual thanksgiving the Church would honor Our Lady. Churches which are named Our Lady of Victory commemorate this event. The Church in Floral Park which has Our Lady as its patron under this title has beautiful windows depicting the battle. One of the most beautiful Churches in Paris is called Notre Dame des Victoires (in Europe and Great Britain the plural is always used). It is in that Church, so near the Gare du Nord train station that St. Therese of Lisieux prayed before her train trip to Rome. There in Rome she would ask Pope Leo XIII for a dispensation to enter Carmel at the age of 15. The kind pope simply responded that whatever God wanted would happen.

MISSIONARY VISIT: Today we welcome Father Anthony from Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon). Father is here to tell us about the state of the Church in that war ravaged land. Please respond generously to his appeal by placing a contribution in the basket at the front door as you leave the Mass. Due to Covid we have not had a mission appeal since 2019 when a Religious Sister from Egypt came to speak to us.

FATHER LEE DESCOTEAUX: As many may know, Father Lee Descoteaux has been our Sunday assistant here at St. Paul's for the last six years. Father Descoteaux is the Judicial Vicar of the diocese, a position which is considered third in the diocesan Curia, after the Bishop and the Vicar General. Father holds a licentiate in canon law (JCL) from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (Santa Croce) in Rome. This university is the premiere pontifical university in the Universal Church. Due to his increased responsibilities, Father Lee will no longer be able to assist us. Father will celebrate the 10.30 Mass on Sunday October 23rd and there will be a simple reception for him after the Mass. Please make every effort to come to greet Father Lee and thank him for his dedication to St. Paul's.

PRIESTS' CONFERENCE: On Wednesday of this week St. Paul's will host the annual Fall Priests' Conference. Over 100 priests will come to St. Paul on Wednesday to meet with the Bishop. The meeting will be in the Parish Hall and there will be a Holy Hour in the Church. The Bishop has been very anxious that the priests see the renovated St. Paul and wanted the Conference here. Ours is a beautiful example of how a modern Church can be a manifestation of the tradition that has nurtured the saints. Many of the priests have said ours is the most beautiful Church in the diocese. Others have said that they feel they have been transported to Rome with its sacredness.

It is truly a manifestation of the Beauty of holiness, and it could never have been done without the assistance of those parishioners and non-parishioners who contributed to this noble enterprise.

*May God bless you,
And may Mark keep you.*

Monsignor James F. Pereda