

FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

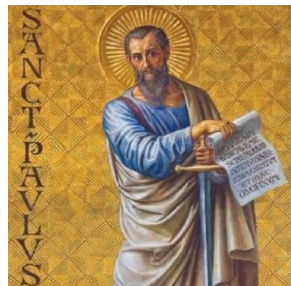


Happy Pentecost. Today we conclude the hope-filled and joy-filled Easter season with the celebration of Pentecost. May all of us, daily, open our hearts and spirits to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our Church.

This weekend we welcome back Fr. Mark Augustine to the parish. Fr. Mark just completed his boards/oral exams for his degree. His dissertation paper was received and approved earlier this year. I trust he will give the parish an update of his studies, etc. He will begin his ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago as a canon lawyer later this summer. I am grateful for Fr. Mark leading the parish community in prayer this weekend.

Fr. Radley is out of town this weekend attending the ordination of a friend of his. I turned 60 back in April and had the opportunity for a “60th birthday – Bucket list trip” and will be back in the parish next Friday.

Thanks for praying us through the Footsteps of St. Paul Pilgrimage. Many of the Masses were celebrated and offered at outdoor chapels throughout Turkey and Greece. I pray that “a picture is worth a thousand words” is true with the following. The shore line Mass was celebrated in Corinth, near where Paul left Corinth, Greece for Ephesus, Turkey. The other outdoor Mass is where Paul preached the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of Veraia. And what is a pilgrimage without some gelato to end the day, providing sustenance and energy for the next day’s adventures.



As we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, the following reflection/prayer by Thomas Merton touched my heart and spirit. The reflection/prayer is titled *We Are One with You*.

O God, we are one with you. You have made us one with you.

You have taught us that if we are open to one another, you dwell in us.

Help us to preserve this openness and to fight for it with all our hearts.

Help us to realize that there can be no understanding where there is mutual rejection.

O God, in accepting one another wholeheartedly, fully, completely, we accept you, and we thank you, and we adore you, and we love you with our whole being, because our being is your being, our spirit is rooted in your spirit. Fill us then with love, and let us be bound together with love as we go our diverse ways, united in this one spirit which makes you present in the world, and which makes you witness to the ultimate reality that is love. Love has overcome.

Love is victorious.

~ Thomas Merton

The School of St. Mary’s final day is this Wednesday, June 8. May our faculty and administration, students, and families have a Christ-centered and prayerful summer break.

May God bless you with Spirit-filled living through Jesus our Lord,

Fr. Mike Nacur