

Dear Parishioners,

I am very happy to announce that we have reached and surpassed our Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) goal. This is due to the generosity and participation of many of our parishioners. I would like to thank all of those that have participated in the Appeal. Everything that is over the goal will come back to the parish. We have designated these funds for improving the signage on the campus so guests and visitors can more readily navigate our campus. I would like to thank Mike Venable for his work on coordinating the ACA and leading it to success. As you know, the ACA provides the Archdiocese with the resources to provide needed services throughout the western Washington on behalf of the Catholic community.

We had our first sessions of the RCIA this past week for those who are interested in learning about our Catholic faith. We have a nice little group forming for this year and new members are welcome. If you know of anyone who may be interested in taking this journey into the Catholic faith, please have them call the parish office. Please keep this group in your prayers as they begin to explore the Catholic faith.

This week the Church celebrates two feasts that are connected: the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, Sept. 14th and Our Lady of Sorrows, Sept. 15th. The Cross and subsequent Resurrection are the culminating events of our Lord's life. These are mysteries that our faith invites us to enter into in a real way, especially through the Liturgy and the Rosary.

It is no mistake that these feasts are linked together. Mary was the first one to enter into the mystery of the cross and resurrection. She stood at the foot of the cross as the mother of sorrows and participated and shared in Our Lord's passion. She then shared in the joy of the resurrection. Mary teaches us what is possible, and through Mary we are invited into this mystery. This is why the Rosary is so important and instructional. The Sorrowful and Glorious mysteries lead us into the mysteries of the cross and resurrection. And isn't life a series of crosses and resurrections ultimately preparing us for the final cross and passage of death and the resurrection in Christ?

In Christ,

Fr. Vincent