The Liturgy as a Starting Point on Our Journey of Faith

One of the topics that I have been pondering and discussing with other staff members is how to enable the power of the liturgy to help people in their faith journey. How does the liturgy, the worship space and the community draw us closer into the family of God?

In looking at a variety of theological reflections on how to affirm our discipleship and build up God’s kingdom here on earth, a common thread stands out. We all start out as inquirers or explorers and then the grace of God moves and motivates us to use our talents and gifts to share the gospel of Jesus in word and deed. This “living out” of our discipleship is a life-long process. It is tempting at different stages of our life to think that we have arrived at the pinnacle of our spiritual life, but in moments of humility and contemplation we know that’s not true. Jesus is always calling us to be people of service. In response, our faith and deep love can move us to become the hands and heart of Christ in reaching out to others.

My prayer for us as a community of faith is that we will grow in our relationship with Christ doing the works of God and becoming even more Christ-centered. We all do this differently, but ultimately it means that our everyday decisions and the way we practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy are based on our relationship with Christ. And while it all begins and ends with the mass, it also permeates every moment of our lives.

In working with so many volunteers at St. Martin’s, I am overjoyed to see the sense of community that develops along with the bonds of friendship, and my wish is that every single person attending our parish masses comes to experience this sense of community. If you have been feeling called to get to know more fellow parishioners and develop friendships that are centered in the parish, I invite you to give me or Laurie Huff a call at the parish office (661-2000). We would be delighted to talk with you and help you find your niche.

I have already heard some great ideas from people: Having a young mother’s small group, a senior citizen’s social group, a Liturgy of the Word for children at one of the masses; all excellent ideas that we would need help in starting, and perhaps you have your own ideas. But even more important than having these ministries is the camaraderie and sense of community that would develop among the volunteers who work together to create them.

I do hope that you will give some serious thought to the Lord’s invitation to explore the many ways that all of us can help each other on our journeys of faith.