

A Message from Fr. Roberto

Thank You!

Thanks to all of you who donated to our Dominican student brothers in the collection last month. **We collected \$13,809.00 from 141 donors.** Thanks as well to all who gave to the special collection for the victims of the recent fires in Northern California. **We raised \$7,644.00 in that collection.** May the Lord reward your generosity.

Church Bathrooms Update

I want to give all of you a little information on our church bathrooms. Our proposal for remodeling the existing bathrooms in the church has been accepted by the city of Antioch. Now, we are waiting to hear from the Raskob Foundation to see if they will give us a grant for the remodeling costs – we asked for \$100,000.00 which is estimated to be about half the cost of the remodeling. The foundation board will be meeting within the next week or two, so we should find out soon. Our tentative date to start construction is January 22nd. We will do one bathroom at a time, beginning with the women's. Total construction time will be two months, perhaps 2 ½ months. It will take this long because we will need to dig down to the church's foundation and we will have to move and/or modify some walls. Doing one bathroom at a time will help us have at least one bathroom available throughout the construction period and will necessitate closing only one entrance of the church at a time. We may also have to rent portable bathrooms during the construction.

Gratitude

As we approach the beautiful annual celebration of Thanksgiving Day, I would like to share with you some thoughts on gratitude taken from an article by Fr. Richard M. Gula, P.S.S.



<http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Thanksgiving/givethanks1.jpg>

“Gratitude is the appreciative awareness that we are surrounded by blessings. When we begin with the blessing of God's unmerited favor upon us, then we cannot help but respond with gratitude. It becomes the basic motive governing the whole of our lives. Being unappreciative is simply not paying attention. It is the failure to recognize grace and it takes the bounty around us for granted. Ingratitude is an enormous spiritual failure. It is the root of sin...

“Each of us must now determine what the fundamental stance will be that shapes how we interpret what is going on and how we respond to it. For some, unfortunately, this stance is egocentric. They turn everything into possessions that never become gifts. But when we begin with grace, we give ‘Thanks’ for being surrounded by gifts that never become possessions. When our inner eyes are opened to the amazing fact that grace is everywhere, we see everything as gift to be shared and not a possession to be hoarded...

“When we realize how much we have been given, we are moved to be generous by sharing it. We are indebted to one another and enjoy this mutual indebtedness by living with the dynamic of receiving and giving with grateful hearts. Notice how different it feels when we give out of a spirit of gratitude for gifts received than out of guilt for what we owe...

“The commission Jesus gave his apostles when he sent them on their first missionary journey can be loosely translated as ‘give freely to others what you have received freely as grace’ (Matthew 10:8). This biblical imperative identifies gratitude as the foundational virtue that seeks to imitate God's gracious action toward us. Recognizing grace focuses our attention on gratitude as the attitude that acknowledges that all that we have and are comes

to us as gift. We can ask of even the most ordinary happenings, ‘How is God at work here?’...

“To nurture gratitude, consider doing the following:

- Take an inventory of the ways you have been gifted by others.
- Name the people in your life who have made a difference to you.
- Send a "thank you" note to someone.
- Develop your own gifts, and celebrate the gifts of others.



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