

# *Walking with Christ*

## THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

By: Deacon Rick Lawlor



During these dog days of summer, I enjoy spending much time outdoors. Summer time in my opinion is family time and time to experience the beauty and grandeur of nature. Allow me to share with you some of my favorite ways to connect with God through his creation and the great outdoors. First, spending time at the lake or the beach. Nothing is more beautiful than a sunrise or sunset near the water. Go out on a boat, canoe or kayak and bask in the sun, while marveling at the vastness of nature. Second, go for a hike. We are very fortunate to live in a part of the world that has an abundance of outdoor hiking opportunities. I like to pray the rosary while I walk through the woods, down dirt roads and around the lake where I spend time in the summer with my family. Third, build a campfire at night. Sitting around the fire either alone or with my son or other family members is a good time for great conversation. As my son prepares to start college in the Fall, we have had some beautiful, open and honest conversations around the campfire. I cherish these conversations and I am grateful to Almighty God for the gifts he has bestowed upon me. One cannot help but feel the presence of God while contemplating and discussing the issues of life under the vastness of the stars. And lastly, the fourth thing I like to do in summer is go for a ride on my motorcycle. Riding down our country roads and around lakes, rivers and streams is a great way to fill all of your senses with the good things God has given us, and it allows one to clear out the clutter which builds up over time. In order to hear God's voice, one must clear out the clutter from time to time.

Therefore, my friends, summer-time is a great time to reset your life, re-think your priorities and reconnect with God through nature. I encourage each of you to journey outdoors this summer, go for a walk, go to the beach or just spend a few hours under the night sky. God created this beautiful universe for us to enjoy and to remind us that he is in charge and he is always there watching over us. Take advantage of these beautiful dog days of summer and clear the clutter and reconnect with God and your family.

May Almighty God Bless You Today & Always!