



WEEKLY MEMO from BMW

Date: August 1, 2014
From: Bishop Michael W. Warfel
To: Clergy, Religious, Lay Ecclesial Ministers et al

It's been a few weeks since I've been able to get out a memo given lots of travel in July. As it is, I take off tomorrow for Quebec, Canada for a family wedding. It's a bi-lingual English and French. The only problem is that I know very little French so it should be interesting! At any rate, I'll be back in Great Falls on Sunday afternoon.

Please mark your calendars and save the date: Deacon Carlos is scheduled to be ordained a priest on December 16, 2014 at 6:00 PM at St. Ann's Cathedral. More information will be provided as we approach this date.

On a recent trip to Juneau for a gathering with bishops from Region XII, I discovered a lovely liturgical resource from Liturgical Press. It is a ritual book specifically designed for the Easter Proclamation (Exultet). The description from Amazon notes: *The Easter Proclamation, or Exsultet*, is the triumphant hymn of praise that proclaims "Christ is Risen!" during the Easter Vigil in the Roman Rite. This sacramental moment, which makes present the promise and joy of the great feast of Easter, can be further enhanced by a unique new ritual book: *The Easter Proclamation*. This lavishly illuminated volume offers the chant found in the Revised Edition of the Roman Missal augmented with magnificent illustrations. Artist Charles Rohrbacher, deacon of the Diocese of Juneau, has written icons that depict the text of the *Exsultet*. A decorative cover with gold stamping is ideally suited to be carried in procession as well as to be enthroned following the Easter Vigil. Parishes should check it out since it's much better than using a loose leaf binder.

Someone called in yesterday asking if the Feast of the Assumption on Friday August 15th was dispensed with because it was adjacent to the weekend. The answer is that **it remains a Holy Day of Obligation this year**. It may be dispensed only if it is adjacent to the Sunday.

I recently read a report from the *Boston College Summit on Vocations to the Priesthood*. Drawing upon survey's from CARA and the summit's participants, researcher Mark Gray noted that a key to encouraging young men to consider becoming a priest is "encouraging the encouragers." Most men who enter the seminary have at some point been encouraged to do so by a family member, teacher, pastor or

someone else. At the same time, surveys demonstrate that only a few Catholics realize they can play an important role in ensuring priests for the future. As an example, only 5% of Catholic ever encouraged someone to become a priest and only 3% a brother or a sister. The point is that we have to encourage parishioners to concretely help with the vocational needs of the Church.

A priest friend of mine recently provided a twist to the well-known parable of the rich man Dives and the poor man Lazarus from Luke's Gospel:

There was a rich man who had everything – good food, lovely clothes and a big house. There was a poor man who sat at his gate. He had nothing. He begged. The sores on his body the dogs licked. One day the rich man saw him at his gate. He began to talk to him. He was poor but had a deep peace in his heart. He told the rich man his name was Lazarus, which means “God is my help.” He told the rich man that God was always helping him even in his sufferings and trials. He felt God was with him. He thanked God for his love even though he was hungry and poor. He told the rich man he wanted only a few things, a small scrap from his table and a small loaf of bread. The rich man listened and his heart was moved. He felt compassion for this man and even envy. He did not have the peace or the trust of this poor man. He fed him and clothed him and took him into his home. He became his brother and now both were rich with the gift of compassion. One day the poor man died and soon after so did the rich man. And both were taken into heaven. Both sat in God's glory. Both were brothers, for in Christ there is neither rich nor poor, slave nor free, only brothers and sisters in Christ.