

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PRINTER

### Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant!

This Sunday we celebrate Fr. Shine's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, and celebrate we should. The full verse of the title of this article is "Well done, good and faithful servant, come share your Master's joy." We know he shares his Master's joy, and today we want him to share in our joy and thanksgiving to him who has been a great shepherd "in season" as pastor, and "out of season" as a priest who could have easily hung up his collar in retirement, but instead has remained a great shepherd to us. We will celebrate with Father Shine at 1 pm Mass this weekend (May 21<sup>st</sup>) with a reception following in the cafeteria. God bless you, Fr. Shine.

### A NEW PRIEST FROM OUR PARISH — ALLELUIA!

As Fr. Shine completes 60 years as a priest, son of St. John the Baptist Parish, Father Alex Witt was ordained this Saturday morning as a priest for our archdiocese. Alex, may all the goodness and grace in you which has been enriched and transformed by the Holy Spirit at your ordination continue to grow ever stronger and richer in your soul, heart, mind, will, and body so that you may always draw people closer to the Lord.

Father Witt will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. John's on **Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM.** (THIS DIFFERENT DATE THAN EARLIER LISTED.) All are invited to pray and celebrate with him after Mass in the cafeteria. (Unfortunately, I will be away that day.)

### WHERE DO PRIESTS COME FROM?

This question is a little easier to answer than "Where do babies come from?" Priests come from all over. They come at a young age with a sense of their calling while in high school or college, they come from older age after working in the world. They come from loving

families and dysfunctional families, and families in between; they come from Catholic schools, home schools, and public schools. They come from all over the spiritual spectrum – conservative and liberal, idealists and realists, intellectuals and down-to-earth people. They are saints and sinners, (often at the same time). The things they have in common as good priests is a love of God and a love neighbor great enough that they can faithfully serve the Lord in this ministry for the rest of their life.

There are certain things in life that nurture vocations in Church service. First, prayer in a parish, a family, and the life of the person to become a priest. This prayer is not simply asking for priests, deacons, and religious sisters and brothers; it is also a prayer of listening – on the part of the parish community and family as to how to nourish vocations in general and for specific persons who may be called. For the individual, it is listening to hear what God is calling you to do. Second, encouragement and support of family, friends, and parishioners towards those who may be called to a life of Church service. Third, the witness of love and care of spouses, especially parents, helps a person discern how they are to love and care in a vocation of Church service.

We have been blessed in just the past ten years to have Fathers Matt Robbin, Jerry Byrd, and now Fr. Witt from our parish become priests. Deacon Don Meyer celebrates 10 years as a deacon. It doesn't stop there. Brody Witt, Alex's brother, Mount St. Mary's Seminary in the fall and Jessica Ruschke, daughter of Jeff and Kathy. will enter the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration this fall. God bless all from our parish who serve the Lord in a life of Church service, and may people continue to response to the call of the Lord!

A blessed week ahead. – Fr. Jeff