

From the Pastor's Printer

The Heart Attack that Wasn't

You will often hear doctors say, that if you are having the symptoms of a heart attack, go to the emergency room right away. I have never heard of anyone who went to the emergency room and ended up not having a heart attack tell people, "I was having the symptoms of a heart attack, and am so glad I went to the hospital, even though it turned out to be a false alarm." The thought that goes through most people's mind is, "What if it was only a pulled muscle or severe cramp? Then I'll look like a hypochondriac wimp who can't take a little chest pain." Two Tuesdays ago, I woke up in the middle of night with chest, back and shoulder pain which would not go away. Against my usual poor judgement on health matters, I decided to go to the ER. Even though tests showed that I did not have a heart attack, they admitted me because of my family history of heart problems and my own high everything-bad. Further tests confirmed that I did not have a heart attack, but that I have more plaque than is healthy and I'd better change my diet and exercise program. Every person who saw me said it was smart to come in, because those same symptoms could have been a heart attack. No one said to me, "What's the matter Flabman? Can't take a little chest pain?" It is easier to fix wounded pride than a damaged heart. That's my public service announcement from the American Heart Association. (P.S. And don't drive yourself to the ER; they really don't like that.)

Hasta Mañana, Salvadorans

What a great trip it was for the members of our twin parishes who visited us this past week and the SJB parishioners who joined them during the visit. Through dialogue, friendship, prayer, and the sharing of faith, I think all who participated are spiritually richer for it. For myself, I was inspired hearing them speak on their national patronal feast day – August 6th, the Transfiguration of the Lord – of the hope that they have in the Savior of the World,

as their country faces the challenges of violence, poverty, and mammoth governmental problems. It makes me ask if I am a man of hope or a cynic who believes change cannot occur. I ask if we really have faith in Christ and his Way or in secular values and selfish interests? Their dedication to the care of their people and their parishes over the tough struggle to get more and more for oneself always reminds me that the cross does cost us, but the price is worth it. They, too, benefited from the visit, coming to new knowledge and insights through participating in the life of our parish. Among the events that took place was meeting with Representative Chabot where they spoke of the causes for mass migration from El Salvador to our nation and listened to his opinion. They met with Bishop Binzer who showed great hospitality and listened with deep appreciation to their situation. The opportunity to participate in our annual Friends in Faith Day brought all to a renewed and deepened faith. While it was a great and inspiring time, it was no vacation. By the end of each day, both North and South Americans were ready for a well-deserved night's sleep. Were the problems of the world solved? By no means! But three Catholic parishes were emboldened and strengthened by this encounter in the Holy Spirit. Thanks to all who participated and the hospitality of everyone to our guests.

Thanks a Million – to all who poured their time, energy, (and perspiration) into Friends in Faith. As I mentioned above, I think all who attended were enriched by the experience.

From the Mouths of Babes – Recently my niece was telling her niece that, when her twin uncles were born, no one expected twins. After the first one was born, the doctor said, "Hold on, there's another baby coming!" Her niece said, "Oh gosh, what did they do with the second one?"