

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PRINTER

### FIVE THINGS I LEARNED FROM MY MOTHER (AND MY FATHER; THEY OPERATED AS A TEAM)

1. She loved all ten of her children equally, but in order to love them equally, she showed love differently according to the personality and needs of each child. (Although I am sure I was her favorite.)
2. "I'm not here to be your friend; I'm here to be your mother."
3. "The best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." (A plaque my father had.)
4. That there was always room at the table for (one or two or three) more.
5. To the question "Which of us kids were planned?" "None of you were planned, but all of you were wanted and loved."

To all mothers, grandmothers, adopted mothers, foster mothers, stepmothers, expecting mothers, godmothers, ad hoc mothers, and those who fill this noble role for anyone who needs love, care, direction, and support, we thank you, we congratulate you, and we honor you. Your love, wisdom, and care have helped form us into the people we are, and the people we strive to be. May God bless you and keep you; may he let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may he look upon you with kindness and grant you peace! (And may you not have to cook dinner tonight!)

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** What have you learned from your mother (in whatever form she came)?

### FROM SACRAMENTAL MARATHON TO SACRAMENTAL LIFE

One of the greatest joys and privileges I have as a priest and pastor is to celebrate the sacraments with people, and there is no time when the sacraments are celebrated in such abundance as in the Easter Season. From Easter Vigil when the children over the age of seven through adulthood are baptized, confirmed, and receive the Eucharist for the first time, or come into full communion in the Catholic Church, to the baptism of infants on Sundays, and the celebration of First Holy Communion and Confirmation with cradle Catholics (and throw in a few weddings and anointings of the sick), it all speaks of a reality of God's presence and action in our lives. We have just finished the sacramental marathon with the confirmation of our parishioners at the cathedral this past Tuesday.

One of the greatest obligations I have as a priest and pastor is to ensure that the sacraments bear fruit in the lives of those who receive them. Sacraments are not simply spiritual events; they are deep encounters with God in which God imparts in us His very Being to animate us and to assist us in living through Him, with Him, and in Him, in order

that we may share forever in His life. Sacraments are not simply traditions to do because we've always done them, nor are they merely spiritual Kodak moments. They are the acceptance of Christ to rule our hearts, and acceptance of the Holy Spirit guide our minds and wills, so that we are changed from what is natural to what transcends this world. Sacraments are not tokens for admission to heaven, nor are they magic which automatically changes us. They are gifts of God's very life within us to strengthen, enlighten, embolden us to live in the Spirit and the Spirit of Jesus, to conform our life to his, and to follow His path to everlasting life. Through the ministry of our staff, our numerous volunteer ministers, and your witness, we strive to lead each person from the event of the sacrament to living it out. May God bless all who receive the sacraments that we may never stop short of the life they call us to embrace so that, in the end, we may embrace God!

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** What sacraments do I live out and which one's may need some work?

### DON'T FORGET — FR. SHINE'S BIG 6-0

Next Sunday we are celebrating Father Shine's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood at 1 PM Mass, followed by a reception in the cafeteria.

The actual date of his ordination is May 25<sup>th</sup>. Father Shine has spent 29 of his 60 years as a priest here in Harrison. We are indeed blessed by this.