

MESSAGE FROM FR. RESTI

I thank God for a safe travel back to the US last Tuesday, February 2. My heart continues to overflow with so much gratitude as I look back at the celebrations for my 25th priestly ordination anniversary, first in the US and then in the Philippines. I am overwhelmed with the acceptance, understanding, and love shown by the sheer presence of many people who graced the occasion in Vacaville last January 10. In the same way that I am so grateful for the turn-out of events as I celebrated, together with my 3 other fellow ordinandi, the priestly ordination anniversary in our own respective hometown parishes in the Philippines. An added bonus was our attendance to the International Eucharistic Congress that was being concurrently held in the country. I cannot thank the Lord enough for the gift of 25 years in the priesthood as well as the people who made the event very meaningful. Thank you for your gracious presence, heartfelt greetings, and generous gifts. I wish I could name each one of you and write them down here. The space will never be enough. Please know that in my heart, I am very grateful and I am keeping you and your good intentions in my humble prayers.

Our pastoral council is organizing many parish activities geared towards drawing more spiritual benefits from the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Among the different communal activities would be monthly group pilgrimages every first Saturday to the different designated sites, parish conferences on the theme of mercy, faith sharing sessions on forgiveness, a youth contest about mercy, and much more. Please watch out for detailed announcements. Fr. Cleetus will guide the activities and Dayna Rigot will be in charge of the overall coordination. May our parish receive the mercy of God in a special way and transform us to be “merciful like the Father.” (Lk. 6:36)

A sure way to gain spiritual favors from the Lord is by deepening our devotion to our parish patron, St. Joseph. In the desire to promote our devotion to our patron and express prayers in a traditional Catholic way, we have made available the votive candles in honor of St. Joseph. We encourage everyone to light up a candle, write down prayer intentions, and place them into the petition box that will be aptly called the St. Joseph prayer box. Memorial candles that can be lit up for a longer period are also available.

We begin our annual solemn observance of Lent on February 10, with Ash Wednesday. Let us be guided by the 2016 Lenten message of Pope Francis who calls us to place special emphasis on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy this Lent, taking into account the current Jubilee Year of Mercy. He is encouraging us to deepen our understanding of mercy by listening intently to the Word of God. Extra daily masses, common Stations of the Cross every Friday, Lenten reflection pamphlets (English and Spanish), Jubilee Mercy activities, and many other sacramental practices are made available in our parish to accompany us in our lenten journey and help us respond to the call of our Holy Father. Fr. Cleetus and I are adding up a Confession time this lent every Wednesday from 11:30 am to 12nn. Please make use of this opportunity to be reconciled with the Lord and experience His merciful love in a special way this lenten season.

Let us be one in accompanying each other in the observance of Lent as we grow in faith, hope and love.

A solemn and meaningful lenten journey to all!