

From Our Rector

Dear Parish Family and Friends:

"The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek." Psalm 110: 4

Upon my arrival at Saint David of Wales in August, 2006, I was pleased to find that many good priests either were serving or had served the parish in prior years. Canon John Heidt, SSC, of blessed memory, kept the worship of God a priority for this worshipping community of faith. Canon Heidt was an old friend for many years and I knew that the parish was in good pastoral hands. Not until I arrived in Denton did I realize how good those hands were. In addition to Canon Heidt's hands, there were two very able and experienced sets of hands in the persons of Father Esteban Saucedo and Father Lloyd Seatvet. Two very faithful and loyal priests could have just as easily sat at home and caught up on all their reading they wanted to do in retirement. Sometimes it is most difficult to get inside and understand the mind of a priest. After being in place as Rector for a short period of time, both of our retired assistants came to me with new ways they wanted to minister to God's people. For Father Saucedo, that meant a new ministry for Latinos/Hispanics to help grow our parish and for Father Seatvet, it meant having weekly communion for those who were homebound at Lake Forest Retirement Village where he lived. So why did they want to seek out new ways to serve our parish and our Lord? Being a priest is not what they did but it was who they **were** in this life. More importantly, it was their obedient call in their life to who God wanted them to be as priests of the Church.

A priest is someone who stands before God on behalf of his people and one who also stands before his people on behalf of God. His entire ministry is dedicated to building bridges between God and mankind and in so doing, may cross over on that bridge that was constructed during his priestly ministry to God and His people. I believe each of these fine priests did exactly what God called them to do on His behalf and in so doing, worked their plan of salvation and now find themselves in His nearer presence. Offering sacrifice as a priest does not make one the most popular in a room filled with people; however, it has eternal rewards in the life to come.

I want to commend this parish for the expressions of love that have been demonstrated to them and to their families as both entered life eternal. They will be missed by us but more especially their families who loved them and supported them even in times when they didn't understand everything God had called them to do. Clergy families are given an extra measure of grace from God because it is never easy to always follow where their priest, husband and father take them in ordained ministry. Our work is far from over as we find new ways to minister to Yolanda, Dana and their families. When you have an opportunity, check on them, tell them how much they are appreciated and most especially how much they are loved by us and a God who sends His Holy Spirit to comfort them in ways we cannot imagine. These two dedicated priests have left us in this life just a few short months apart but we are comforted that their witness lives on in us as we miss seeing them but knowing and being assured they now continue in their priestly ministry by praying for the people they served and loved in the nearer presence of a loving God. Truly, they are priests forever who have blessed our lives.

See you in church.

Faithfully,

Canon H.W. Herrmann, SSC

VI Rector