

May 2008

Dear Saint Francis Xavier Parish Family,

May the joy of our Easter Season of fifty days bring many blessing to you and your loved ones!

Our **Senior Sunday Celebration** honoring our high school graduates will be on April 27th at the 10:00 a.m. Liturgy. A reception will follow the Mass in the lower level of Xavier Hall. We congratulate all grade school, high school, and college graduates from our parish in 2008.

The month of May is the month of Mary, our mother and model of faith. In keeping with our parish custom, the rosary will be prayed in the main body of Church beginning at 5:00 p.m. **before** the 5:30 p.m. Mass each Saturday in May, and also in the Daily Mass Chapel **after** the 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Liturgies on each Sunday in May. A reminder that since the universal Church dedicates the first Saturday of each month to the Blessed Mother, on every first Saturday the rosary is prayed before the 5:30 p.m. Mass in the main body of the Church beginning at 5:00 p.m.

The yearly celebration by the Lutherans, Anglicans, and Roman Catholics (LARC) of our community for the **Ascension evening prayer** will be held on Thursday, May 1, at the Epiphany Lutheran Church (our official Catholic observance of the Feast of the Ascension is the following Sunday). It will begin at 7:00 p.m. with a reception to follow. A combined choir from the St. Andrew Episcopal, Epiphany Lutheran Church and Saint Francis Xavier will assist with the services.

On Wednesday night, May 7, we will hold our **sixth annual Family/Youth Mass** at Saint Francis beginning at 7:00 p.m. Our young people will assist with the various ministries and a reception will follow this event.

A very special and **Happy Mother's Day** to all mothers on May 11. We thank God for you, and we remember in a particular way all our mothers who have gone before us in faith.

Our Saint Francis Xavier **Women's Club** will hold their annual end of the year breakfast on May 18, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. All women of the parish are invited to attend.

If you have not had an opportunity to contribute to the **2008 Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal**, I encourage you to please do so. This Appeal helps us in a variety of ways in our own Carbondale community as well as throughout the Diocese of Belleville. Our goal this year is exactly what we collected last year, \$26,851.00. I hope everyone will do what he or she can to help us reach our goal. At the time of the writing we have pledged \$18,925.35 from 92 households.

Thank you for continuing to honor your **Capital Campaign pledges** for our parish. We are presently replacing the twenty-two year old roof on Xavier Hall. This is just in time since we have a number of leaks in the building during the bad storms in March.

God's peace,

Fr. Bob
Pastor