

From My Rectory Window...

There is nothing ordinary about “*Ordinary Time*” being resumed after the Easter and post Easter festivities. Yes, we are going to go back to the liturgical color green (which symbolizes growth in the Spirit) until, for the most part we approach the Advent season. But more importantly this week in our Parish we are in transition as we are bidding farewell to Father Daison, who will leave us at the end of this week to take up his new duties in St. Mary’s Parish in Bordentown. We will then welcome Father Mark Devlin who will arrive next weekend as our very experienced Pastoral Associate who will function as the Parochial Vicar. Basically, he will simply help me to balance the Pastoral work of taking care of all of you as best as we can. So always remember to keep us in your good prayers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Father Daison for his ministry among us at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Whiting and I wish him all God’s blessings as he begins his new ministry in Burlington County. May God bless him with every light and virtue as he faithfully serves the People of God in our Diocese of Trenton. Please remember that Fr. Daison will be available under the covered portico on Saturday evening after the four and five forty-five P.M. Masses. He will also be greeting our parishioners after each of the Sunday Masses in the Parish Center. There will be light refreshments available for all who come over. Due to a lovely generous gift from devout parishioners and the hard work of our Rosary Altar Society, we will be putting in brick borders around our flower beds to plant them in deeper ground to assist in a more successful display season for our flower beds. We usually have vincas, as the deer don’t particularly like their smell and avoid them. (The young deer do kick at them, but they won’t eat them.) In this way, we can make the place look beautiful for the warmer times until that first chill of autumn sounds the inevitable change. It was a later planting season this year. I will be discussing matters financial in the next few weeks as there is always a need for a review and an appraisal in how we are doing. Needless to say, we have never really recovered from the recession, and our weekly offering is surely not what it should be, but we will discuss this in coming columns. Always take a moment to view our monthly: “Finances at a Glance” just to give you some idea of what is happening and what we as a Parish need to do. Also, I have been discussing with our Finance Council the real need to totally renovate our heating and cooling system in our much-used Parish Center and auditorium. Not to mention the Chapel. I must take care of the buildings that we already have before we consider other things. These places need updating. And the proposed amount is astronomical. I’ll discuss this with you soon, as we really have to do something before we run into heating and cooling problems. I can’t say that such things make me grey, as I am long past that, but seriously they do cause me great concern. I confidently put all these concerns under the mantel of Our Lady and of course our good St. Joseph. We’ll be talking soon. May God bless us in our pastoral transitions, and watch over us in our every concern. I will be taking my annual spiritual retreat this week and promise to keep you in my prayers. Peace and all good things.

Your Pastor and servant:

Father Pat Papalia

