

## **Thank you, Thank you, Thank you and Happy Easter.**

I know that all of us were touched, inspired, and blessed this Lent and Holy Week. There are many people we need to thank for their generosity and their gifts. JoAnne Reeder, our Director of Worship, along with many others planned our Lenten and Holy Week Services that were always prayerful. Our lay preachers and presiders inspired us and reminded us that we are all priestly people. Tina Kelsall and her very talented crew helped us to see Easter Joy in all three of our churches. They and our maintenance crew worked very hard this week. Our musicians and choir as always made our liturgies very moving. We are all in awe of their talent. As most of you know Michele Beck had serious throat surgery and it was a great joy to hear her sing again especially on Good Friday and her very prayerful and spirit-filled proclamation of the Exsultet with our choir at the Easter Vigil. We as a parish rejoice that God has preserved her beautiful voice. Holy Week is always a very busy time but also a time when many people share their gifts as Eucharistic Minister, Readers, Altar Servers, Ministers of Hospitality, Preachers, and Presiders. Sr. Pat, Fr. Kevin, and Fr. John touch us with their faith and devotion to our parish in many different ways.

Most importantly we give thanks to God for all of you. As I stood behind the altar at our sunrise service this morning with almost 2,000 people gathered around it struck me that this is our call and mission as a parish, to welcome all people. In baptism we have "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and so we are called like Jesus to be the "face of the Father's mercy" (Pope Francis). Our world, our nation, our church needs this light of mercy and compassion.

Thanks to all of you who joined us for these liturgies and I hope you see yourself as truly the Body of Christ and the Light of the world.

Jim Scullion, ofm  
Pastor, St. Francis Parish