

## Fr. Martin's Reflection – May 15, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

### **Appreciating our Deacons**

This past week was a very important week for the Deacons of our parish, which in turn makes it a very important week for us too. Deacon Larry Finn celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the Diaconate on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Deacon Tom Shea marked his 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of ordination on May 8<sup>th</sup>, and on May 11<sup>th</sup> Deacon Gary Richardson marked his 26<sup>th</sup> year along with Deacon Ron Schwoebel who marked his 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Deacon Larry, on behalf of all the parish we want to say 'Thank You' for your service in God's ministry in many parts of the Diocese, but especially your service here at Mary, Mother of the Church Parish, we are truly indebted and ask God's blessings for you and Jodie and all your family and loved ones.

Deacon Gary, Deacon Tom, and Deacon Ron I am truly indebted to you for all you do for me personally and your ministry to the people of the parish, we appreciate everything you have done and do for us. May God continue to guide you and bless you in God's vineyard.

### **Mary, Mother of the Church Feast Day**

Our parish Feast Day always falls the Monday after Pentecost Sunday. I know in the past we haven't properly celebrated it, but that is all going to change this year. On June 6<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate our Feast Day with Mass at 6:30pm in St. Mary Church, Bordentown. I would like to extend an invitation to everyone to come and give thanks to our Blessed Mother for her prayers and protection over the past year, and throughout our parish existence. This is our Feast Day – our Family Day - a day when we give thanks and a day we give recognition to family members who have gone beyond what is normal to make our parish home a more beautiful, more caring, and a safer place to live and worship.

This year we will be acknowledging four (4) people and saying 'Thank You' to them for their service and commitment to our parish ministry, our parish family, our parish life. This year we will acknowledge and honor:

**Deacon Larry Finn** for his 25 years of service to God and to God's people.

**Mary Smith** for her dedication and commitment to the care of St. Mary Church, the Prayer Garden, and a member of our parish Liturgy Team.

**Ron Scully** for his dedication and commitment to the parish, especially during the COVID pandemic, and a member of the Liturgy Team.

**Frank Scharibone** for his dedication and commitment to the parish, especially during the COVID pandemic, lead Usher, and overseeing the parking for Religious Education.

I have given a very brief outline of all the things these people do for us in our parish, there are so many other things they are involved in, it would take pages to outline them all. I ask you to keep them in your prayers and join us on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm as we celebrate our parish feast day and honor our family members for all they do for us and for God.

May God bless you and keep you forever close to God's heart. Let us take time to reflect on the gospel passage taken from our Sunday gospel:

**'Jesus said: "My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples."' Jn 13:34-35**

*Fr. Martin*