

## Fr. Martin's Reflection – 08/22/21 Bulletin

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Over the past week so much has unfolded that needs our attention and our prayers. As you read this, I'm sure you have heard the news of the earthquake in Haiti where up on 2,000 people have died and many more homeless and destitute. We have also heard of the tragic news of the Taliban reclaiming power in Afghanistan. We fear for the human rights of all Afghan citizens, but in particular the rights of women and girls.

Let us first and foremost pray for the people of Haiti and Afghanistan that they will receive the courage to face this 'Calvary' and believe they will overcome the suffering they find themselves in at present. Let us give whatever support we can to help alleviate their earthly suffering.

**"From the depths of my despair I call to you, O Lord, hear my voice. I look for the Lord, my soul waits for him, in his word is all my trust. My soul waits for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with him is steadfast love, and great is his power to save and redeem." Ps 130:1-2,5-7**

### **ARISE Together in Christ**

Every so often we need a spiritual 'oil change.' May that be an hour of solitude in our favorite place or a weekend retreat or maybe something more, something ongoing, something that helps you grow spiritually and emotionally. After the year we just had and are still having, many feel that their spiritual life, in general, and prayer life in particular, have taken a battering. You may find that you are not praying as much as before or not at all. Putting it another way, spiritually unfit.

The parish liturgy team would like to introduce to you **ARISE**. **ARISE** is a program that brings people together in small groups of 6-7 in a team leader's home or small community room provided by the parish. The program is broken up into short 6-week sessions with the same group of people. Not only are you learning about your faith, but you are also building friendships that will last for a lifetime.

The headings for each of the sessions are a gentle invite from Christ to get to know him better and to get to know yourself better and to get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ better.

Session One: Encountering Christ Today

Session Two: Change Our Hearts

Session Three: In the Footsteps of Christ

Session Four: New Heart, New Spirit

Session Five: We Are the Good News!

So, who is this for? Everyone!

If you are new to the parish, this is for you!

If you are wanting to have a better understanding of your faith, this is for you!

If you want to build up a network of like-minded friends, this is for you!

This is for everyone!

If you would like to know more about **ARISE**, please contact the parish office and they will pass on your contact details to the organizing team.

### **A BIG Thank You.**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rob Pecht for presenting over 200 cushioned chairs for use in St. Mary School Hall and for removing some of the old metal chairs. I personally want to thank you and I know a lot of 'bums' will appreciate it.

May God be your guiding light and inspiration for this coming week.

*Fr. Martin*