

## Fr. Martin's Reflection – May 14, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

### Happy Mother's Day!

To our first time Moms, today is a very special day and I truly hope that all those around you make you feel so special and loved. To all our Moms, thank you for loving us through the colicky sleepless nights, super smelly diapers, picky food eaters, temper tantrum humiliators, teenage rebellions, and a laundry basket that never seems to empty. You deserve a 'Mother's Day.' To all our Moms in heaven, we love you and miss you. You are forever in our hearts.

*Dear Lord, we humbly come before You today giving thanks for the gift of motherhood. Thank You for the special role that mothers play in our lives. Today, we want to celebrate them and all they do for us. Thank You, Lord, for their unconditional, faithful love and sacrifice. We pray that they will be blessed with good health, happiness, and peace of mind. We ask that You grant them wisdom, strength, and courage as they meet the unique challenges of motherhood. Dear Lord, bless them abundantly for all they do. May they feel Your nearness and know Your peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Come, O Holy Spirit

This past week our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Religious Education students received the Sacrament of Confirmation. It was a beautiful and wonderful celebration. Thank you to all who helped to make it so special, Mrs. Margaret Zola, Religious Education Coordinator, Liz Evans, and all involved in the Religious Education Program. Alfonso Gonzalez for the wonderful music, Mary Smith, and all involved in making the Church so beautiful, and Msgr. Mullelly, our celebrant for confirmation. I would like to thank you, the parents and godparents, for supporting and encouraging these young people in their faith journey and ask and pray that you will continue to encourage and support them in their faith journey going forward.

To the Confirmandi, may you always open your heart to the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you in life's journeys, inspiring you in life choices, and strengthening you in moments of weaknesses. May the Holy Spirit be your life reference book that you consult each day.

*O Holy Spirit of God - Come into my heart and fill me: I open the window of my soul to let you in. I surrender my whole life to you. Come and possess me, fill me with light and truth. I offer to you the one thing I really possess, my capacity for being filled by you. Of myself I am an empty vessel. Fill me so that I may live the life of the Spirit, the life of Truth and Goodness, the life of Beauty and Love, the life of Wisdom and Strength. But, above all, make Christ to be formed in me, that I may dethrone self in my heart and make him King; so that he is in me, and I in him, today and forever.*

(The late Bishop of Bloemfontein)

May the Holy Spirit fill your week with faith, hope, and love.

*Fr. Martin*