

June 17, 2018

From Fr. Jim . . .



It's officially summer. The season of summer begins this week. Typically this is the time for vacations. May your vacations from school and work be renewing, refreshing, rewarding, safe and fun. May God bless you with the rest and relaxation for which you have worked and studied so hard. May this also be a time for recreation and re-creation for all.

My good dog, Clancy, seems to believe that every day is a "dog day of summer." Normally during very hot summer days in the month of August, dogs become very lazy and do nothing but sleep in order to survive the heat. As many of you already know, Clancy sleeps all day long, every day of the year! Every day is a "dog day of summer!" He is the king of rest, relaxation and a peaceful demeanor. Very seldom does he get upset and I think it is because he is so rested. My other dog Jake knows how to rest also. I catch him taking long naps on the floor near Clancy but maybe that is why he is so happy and likes to play a lot. During these summer months, may we all learn a lesson from Clancy: enjoy the rest and relaxation that we all deserve, stay calm and cool and live our lives more peacefully. And may we also learn a lesson from Jake: Take time to play, have fun and enjoy life. Summertime is a great time to put the lessons from Clancy and Jake into practice.

Happy Father's Day: Thanks to all of our dads for your great love and for bringing God's love to us by the many ways you selflessly care for your children.

There is a Scripture that says, "Let no one on earth call you Father. There is only one Father – your Father in heaven." Other religions use this line when they want to make a negative point about priests having the title of "father". I always thought the title was given and could be given to anyone trying to imitate the love and care of the one true Father or parent. This is the only way that anyone can truly be a father or a parent. It cannot be of one's accord but can only be of God and under God's name. So, again thanks to all of our Dads for reflecting the love of God to everyone you serve. May you be blessed as you bless so many. The following blessing is taken from Book of Blessings, pg. 648:

God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless all fathers, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Peter's Pence Collection: Speaking of fathers, we call the Pope, the Holy Father, again because he is one who images the love of Christ for the church in the fashion of the apostles, especially St. Peter, the rock upon whom the Lord built the church. The second collection, next week, supports the works and ministry of the Pope in caring for the church, the people of God throughout the world and for being a witness to charity especially to the victims of war and natural disasters and others who are most in need of assistance. Thank you for your prayers, generosity and support of the work and ministry of the Pope.