

Mt. Echoes, Vol. 1, No. 1     March 10, 1985

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph's Parish:

This Sunday begins a new tradition in our Parish - the inauguration of a weekly Parish Bulletin. There has long been a need for this. Our parish serves all of Mono County and has three churches in three communities spread over a distance of 60 miles. Each community is quite distinct and has its own character. Yet all belong to the same parish, bound together by the common heritage of our faith.

I firmly believe that this weekly bulletin will help bind us all more closely together. What affects one member or one community, affects all. When one member of our parish asks for prayers, we should all pray. There is power in united prayer. This has been demonstrated quite dramatically in the last six months. At the offertory petitions at each Mass we have been praying for a number of sick persons and our prayers have been answered quite dramatically in several instances: Jack Bell of Lee Vining has amazed his doctors with the progress he has made since his stroke; Keith Naud of Mammoth Lakes has lost all traces of cancer. While doctors may say that this is only above normal, who can deny that our collective prayers were answered?

And there are a number of events that take place in the various communities which deserve all our support. The weekly bulletin is a great way for all of us to know what is happening. If anyone has some notice they think should be announced, please let me know, but be aware of deadlines. Get the information to me as soon as possible.

I have a priest Uncle, now retired, in the Milwaukee Diocese. For 25 years he was pastor of a small community outside Milwaukee, and for 25 years he put out a weekly bulletin; each week he wrote a spiritual message. He is my inspiration for this bulletin. While announcements and news items are important, each bulletin must contain something relating to our spiritual growth. As your pastor I must serve you by offering spiritual nourishment. There is a deep hunger in each of us to know more of God. We were created by God to share His goodness and He placed in each of us a deep desire to know more and more about Him. With God's help, I will try to fill this need.

I hope to cover a wide variety of topics: scripture, morals, canon law, liturgy, etc, to name but a few general fields. Please pray that God is with us in this new parish project.

It will take some time before a format is found that is suitable and distinct. I am open to any suggestions you may have. You will notice that one side of the bulletin is preprinted in color. These come from The Liturgical Press run by the Benedictines in Collegeville, Minn. This adds quite a bit of professionalism and class to our efforts. When trying to do God's work there is never an excuse for being second rate. We should always try to give our best to the Lord.

During Lent the Church encourages us to do something special to come to know our Lord better and to draw closer to Him - to turn back to Him. One excellent way to do this is to listen to what the Lord has to say. Below are the readings for each daily Mass during the coming week. Take a few minutes to read these short selections and let Our Lord speak to you.

This is our first parish bulletin; with God's help there will be one each week for years to come. Pray that God will bless this work and that the Holy Spirit will guide us with his word and inspiration. With God's help and your prayers, we will succeed.

Fr. Andy, S.J.