

NEW HORIZONS Giving Thanks

I dedicate this article to the place of thanksgiving in our lives. Catholic teaching holds that the celebration of the Eucharist is the source and summit of our lives. The word Eucharist means thanksgiving. Eucharist is an opportunity to give thanks to God for the many blessings of God. Chief among these are the salvation that God is working in our lives.

Our lives are to be characterized by an attitude of thanksgiving. At times we forget that family, friends, material possessions and our very faith are all gifts from a good God. Thus even in the midst of difficulty we are to give thanks for the ways that God is present and active in our lives.

This past weekend we celebrated Good Shepherd Sunday. The celebration of our parish Feast Day has left me with a sense of gratitude for so many. Ultimately parish life is a form of journeying to God. I thank God especially for the volunteers who make this journey possible. I am very conscious of the RCIA Team, the PSR teachers, the parents the plan High School and Middle School youth events, the Social Committee, the Parish Vocation Awareness Committee, the Adult Faith Formation and Liturgy Committees, the ACTS Core Team and staff of retreats and all of those who plan social events. I thank all of these volunteers. This year I especially thank Eric Thibodeaux who in the midst of a very busy life was willing to lead the youth group.

I wanted to also thank the leadership councils that offer me support in my work. I congratulate Chris Domingue and Cindy Smith who won the parish Pastoral Council election.

I also want to thank parishioners for your generous financial support of our parish. I will use this article as a way of thanking parishioners for participating in the Catholic Relief Services Second Collection and the Operation Rice Bowl collection. Catholic Relief Services received \$2,928.50 from our Catholic Relief Services Second Collection and \$704.01 for Operation Rice Bowl.

May thanksgiving truly be a characteristic of our lives at all times. May we see God's guiding hand in our lives in good times and in struggles. As we come to the end of this school year know that I have a sense of thanks for those that make our ministry possible through their efforts and their presence.

Fr. Mark Watson