



THE PARISH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER AND ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

CHURCH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER: 869 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10065

CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA: 411 East 68th Street, New York, NY 10065

www.svsc.info | (212) 744-2080 | parish@svsc.info

May 21, 2017 — 6th Sunday of Easter

SECOND COLLECTIONS - THIS WEEKEND

This weekend, May 21, there will be a second collection to help the **Parish's Deficit Reduction**. Thank you for your support.

This weekend, May 21, is **Food Sunday**. We will collect money for the New York Common Food Pantry.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION

Ascension Thursday (May 25th) is a Holy Day of Obligation. On Wednesday, May 24th, the 5:15 PM Mass at St. Catherine of Siena and the 6 PM Mass at St. Vincent Ferrer will be Vigil Masses for the Ascension. On Thursday, May 25th, in addition to the regularly scheduled Masses, we will have a Sung Mass at 12:10 PM at St. Vincent's, a Low Mass at 1 PM at St. Catherine's, and a Solemn Mass at 6 PM at St. Vincent's with the Schola Cantorum singing Grayston Ives' *Missa Brevis*, Charles Stanford's *Caelos ascendit hodie*, and Malcolm Williamson's *Dignus est Agnus*. A parish party will follow in the Priory Parlors.

NO HOLY HOUR - WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

There will be no Holy Hour at St. Vincent Ferrer on Wednesday, May 24th. Holy Hour will resume on Wednesday, May 31st at 7:30 PM.

MEMORIAL DAY

On Monday, May 29th, Memorial Day, Masses will be said at St. Vincent Ferrer at 9 AM, and at St. Catherine of Siena at 7 AM. The churches will close for the day following these Masses. The parish offices will be closed in observance of the holiday.

SOLEMN VIGIL OF PENTECOST

On Saturday, June 3rd, in addition to the regular evening Masses, there will be a Solemn Mass for the Vigil of Pentecost at 7:30 PM at St. Vincent Ferrer. This Vigil Mass, similar in form to the Easter Vigil (but much more brief), includes readings and prayers added by Pope Benedict XVI in 2008. It will fulfill the Sunday obligation. The readings will be chanted and accompanied by chants from the Dominican *Graduale*. The Schola Cantorum will sing Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina's *Missa Dum complerentur*, Hans Leo Hassler's *Dum complerentur*, and Giovanni Gabrieli's *Jubilate Deo á 8*.

JUNE PARISH STUDY

Beginning on Tuesday, June 6th, we will be having a four-week Parish Study course titled "**Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament**." During this course, we will explore the way each of the four evangelists use the Old Testament to help us better understand Christ's identity.

The sessions will be led by Br. Isaac Morales, O.P., a Dominican friar who will be serving at our parish throughout the summer. Before entering the Order of Preachers, Br. Isaac received a Ph.D. in New Testament from Duke University and worked as an assistant professor in the Department of Theology at Marquette University. In March, Br. Isaac was ordained to the diaconate, and is preparing for ordination to the priesthood in 2018.

The course will be held each Tuesday evening during the month of June at 6:45 PM in the Parish Hall at the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer.

MASS AND CONFESSIONS

ST. VINCENT FERRER

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6:00 PM

SUNDAY: 8:00 AM, 12:00 PM,

6:00 PM

WEEKDAYS: 8:00 AM, 12:10 PM,

6:00 PM

SATURDAY: 8:00 AM

Confessions

SATURDAY: 5:00–5:50 PM

WEEKDAYS: 5:20–5:50 PM

Parish Vespers

SUNDAY: 5:30 PM

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00 PM

SUNDAY: 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM

WEEKDAYS: 7:00 AM, 5:15 PM

SATURDAY: 9:00 AM

Confessions

SATURDAY: 3:00–3:50 PM

WEEKDAYS: 4:40–5:05 PM

LITURGY OF THE HOURS &

OTHER PRAYER

ST. VINCENT FERRER

MONDAY–FRIDAY:

7:40 AM (MORNING PRAYER)

5:30 PM (OFFICE OF READINGS
AND EVENING PRAYER)

WEDNESDAY:

6:30 PM (ROSARY)

7:30 PM (HOLY HOUR)

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

MONDAY–FRIDAY:

5:00 PM (ROSARY)

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
PRAYER GROUP

WEDNESDAY: 6:30 PM

QUEEN OF PEACE PRAYER GROUP

SATURDAY: 9:30 AM

PARISH OFFICE

St. Vincent Ferrer
869 Lexington Ave, NY, NY 10065
(212) 744-2080 | parish@svsc.info
Office Hours: Monday–Friday:
9 am–1 pm, 2–5 pm

St. Catherine of Siena
411 East 68th Street, NY, NY 10065
Office Hours:
Monday – Friday: 10 am–3 pm

PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. Walter Wagner, OP
Pastor

Rev. Joseph Allen, OP
Vicar

Rev. Innocent Smith, OP
Vicar for Formation

Bro. Damian McCarthy, OP
Sacristan

Deacon John M. Powers

Lee Ann Rubino
Business Manager

James D. Wetzel
Director of Music and Organist

Lisa Harrelson
Director of Catechesis and
Youth Ministry

Rachel Miller
Administrative Assistant

Sr. Padraic Mary McGuinness, OP
Receptionist

Tony Hicks
Church Custodian

Tracey Hicks
Church Custodian

ST. VINCENT FERRER

HIGH SCHOOL

(212) 535-4680
Sr. Gail Morgan, OP
Principal

DOMINICAN SHRINE OF

ST. JUDE

(212) 249-6067
www.dominicanshrineofsaintjude.org

PARISH INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

Please register as a member of our Parish if this is where you regularly attend Mass. Registration forms are available in the Parish Office, or online at www.svsc.info/register.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

To arrange for the baptism of a child, call the Parish Office. Baptisms are usually celebrated on Saturdays, but other arrangements may be made depending upon the circumstances. Please call the Parish Office to schedule a meeting with a priest.

SACRAMENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND FIRST RECONCILIATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by Lisa Harrelson (lharrelson@svsc.info).

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by Lisa Harrelson (lharrelson@svsc.info). Adults who have not been confirmed should inquire with the Parish Office about preparing for confirmation.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

To begin making arrangements for a wedding at St. Vincent Ferrer or St. Catherine of Siena, contact the Parish Office to arrange a meeting with a priest. More information is available at www.svsc.info/weddings.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the Parish Office if you or a loved one would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick at the Parish, at a nearby hospital, or at home (for those who are homebound).

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA is a class for adults interested in becoming Catholic. To learn more, contact Fr. Innocent Smith, OP, at the Parish Office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

For information and/or registration for classes held at St. Vincent Ferrer or St. Catherine of Siena, contact Lisa Harrelson (lharrelson@svsc.info).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

Parish Study is a program for adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. It meets on Tuesday evenings in the Fall and Spring. To learn more, contact the Parish Office or check our website at www.svsc.info.

YOUNG ADULTS

St. Vincent Ferrer often hosts events of the New York Frassati Fellowship. For more information, visit www.frassati.nyc.

MASS INTENTIONS
ST. VINCENT FERRER

SUNDAY, MAY 21
6:00 pm (Vigil) Carol Premone (D)
8:00 am Charlie, Dick, & Peter
Buckley (D)
12 pm Mother's Day Novena
6:00 pm For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, MAY 22
8:00 am Edward C. Perry (D)
12:10 pm Mother's Day Novena
6:00 pm Rev. Augustine Yurko, OSB
& Rev. William Yurko (D)

TUESDAY, MAY 23
8:00 am For the Deceased members
of the Parish & the Order
12:10 pm Marie D. Powers (D)
6:00 pm Bayard G. Schaeffer (D)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24
8:00 am Mary Louise Montigny (D)
12:10 pm For the Christians in the
Middle East
6:00 pm Rene Concepcion (D)

THURSDAY, MAY 25
8:00 am Mary Louise Montigny (D)
12:10 pm Mary & John Gilrane
6:00 pm Leticia Castillo (D)

FRIDAY, MAY 26
8:00 am Mary Louise Montigny (D)
12:10 pm Rev. Barnabas
Gorski, OFM (D)
6:00 pm Julia Monaco (D)

SATURDAY, MAY 27
8:00 am Julia Chanduvi (D)

MASS INTENTIONS
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

SUNDAY, MAY 21
4:00 pm (Vigil) Michael Ramos (D)
10:00 am For the patrons of the
Shrine of Saint Jude
5:00 pm Michael Ramos (D)

MONDAY, MAY 22
7:00 am For the Province of
St. Joseph
5:15 pm Fr. Stephen Ries

TUESDAY, MAY 23
7:00 am Fr. Augustine Badgley
5:15 pm Marina Spani-Molella (D)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24
7:00 am Marinelli Family
5:15 pm Arlene Gamusaran

THURSDAY, MAY 25
7:00 am Richard Golan (D)
1:00 pm Diarmuid O'Mahoney (D)
5:15 pm Mrs. Frances Amicone (D)

FRIDAY, MAY 26
7:00 am St. Catherine of Siena
Purgatorial Society (D)
5:15 pm Clifford Ray Norton (D)

SATURDAY, MAY 27
9:00 am Nora Stack

PARISH PRAYER
INTENTIONS

*Contact the Parish Office to add a
name to this list*

William Alonzo, Joseph Robert
Cusimano, Vincent DiMaio, Sally
Francis, Rev. Chris Johnson, O.P.,
Elizabeth Johnson, Carolyn Kelly,
John Kelly, John Langelier, Marie-
Louise Leschallas, Ulla, Nannestad,
Kathleen Nelli, Philip Paris, Ollie
Singer, Alexis Tango, & Aquila
Zacharilla.

Please pray for the repose of the souls
of Edith Cucciniello, Lillian Krasnov,
Ellorine Martinez, Carmen Leticia
Negron, & Abby O'Neill, and the
souls of all our recently deceased.

We continue to pray for the sick, the
dying, and their families in Memorial
Sloan Kettering Cancer Center,
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, the
Hospital for Special Surgery, and
Rockefeller University Hospital.

CANDLE INTENTIONS

The seven-day candles are available for
an offering of \$15 each.

St. Vincent - Sanctuary Lamps
Antonia Cordal; Richard J.
Corallo (d); Ramon & Fernando
Gonzalez (l); Jack Ryan Keegan (l);
Anthony Mortelliti; Edward C.
Perry (d); Florence A. Schwede (d)

St. Vincent - Sanctuary Madonna
Our Lady Help of Christians

St. Vincent - Pieta Lamp
Well-being of Christians in the
Middle East

St. Catherine - Sanctuary Lamp
Priscila Ventigan

St. Catherine - Mary Candle
Priscila Ventigan

Mass Intentions may be reserved in the Parish Office Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and in the Church Office of St. Catherine of Siena Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

WORSHIP THE LORD IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS.

Today, this letter comes to you from the organist's bench instead of the pastor's chair. It seems like a life-time has transpired since my previous letter in September; almost an entire parish season has passed, one that has been marked by exceptional growth in a number of ways. I suspect that most of us who read these letters worship weekly – or even daily – at one or both of our parish's beautiful, historic churches. In this regular pattern of life, it is difficult for us to accurately gauge, and thus fully appreciate, just how much we have collectively achieved since the establishment of the new parish, since the institution of the new Mass schedule, or even since the birth of the new year!

Music was one of the primary topics of conversation throughout the merger process, and with my appointment a year ago as the parish's Director of Music, I was charged with helping the parish find a unified musical voice. This was a tall order and continues to be an enjoyable challenge. That being said, in the weeks and months since my arrival, I have received an overwhelming outpouring of welcoming support, encouragement, and love from Fr. Walter, his brother friars, the sisters, my fellow staff members, and of course you, my fellow parishioners. Not a day goes by that I do not give profound thanks to God for the opportunity to work within such a parish family. So, as we race towards the quietude of summer, let us take a moment to musically survey the past year, to reiterate our goals, to contemplate what we have accomplished, and to prime ourselves for future growth.

Fr. Walter, in his bulletin letter last week, made the point that 'singing at Mass' and 'singing the Mass' are two different things. It is from this observation that my survey germinates. For those of you who attended this spring's Parish Study in which Fr. Innocent and I gave an overview of the various aspects of the Mass (prayers, readings, chants, gestures, etc.), you may recall that Mother Church sets forth a hierarchy of things to be sung at Mass. That is to say, the prayers and orations (the Collect, the Preface, etc.), the Pater noster, and the Mass Ordinary (Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei) enjoy musical pride of place. So for the congregation to 'find its own voice', the fitting place to start was with these.

(By way of an advertisement, in next week's bulletin, Fr. Innocent will write about the Propers of the Mass, those parts primarily given to the role of the cantor or the Schola Cantorum (choir). Choral music, hymnody, and organ music and their roles in the Mass will be reviewed in another letter in the future.)

THE ORDINARY OF THE MASS

Beginning last July, we set forth a plan to use three different congregational Ordinaries that would alternate according to the liturgical season. All three are chant Masses, meaning that there is only one vocal line. (Compare this to most of the hymns we sing, which were conceived harmonically in four parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass.) Chant is the musical language of the church and is the bedrock on which all subsequent Western music was built, from Bach to Beyoncé. Its inherent, beautiful simplicity makes it ideal for communal singing. Furthermore, chant eschews the immediacy of emotionalism (being neither overtly dolorous nor triumphant), lending it the timeless, universal quality that is so vital to the ethereal nature of Catholic worship. Think of it as the aural equivalent of incense.

The three specific congregational Masses sung in our parish were chosen because each possesses a character befitting the season during which it is sung, and all are familiar enough to be welcoming to visitors. Also, since you are more likely to encounter one of these three throughout the Catholic world than any others, you are subtly being prepared to be able to fully participate in a Mass on your travels across town or across an ocean.

Mass XVIII: Deus Genitor alme

This simplest setting is sung during the two penitential seasons of Advent and Lent. It therefore does not include a Gloria. If a Catholic is likely to know a Sanctus or Agnus Dei in Latin, this is it!

Roman Missal Mass

This is the musical setting of the Kyrie, Gloria, etc. found in the (English-language) Missal, the book that the priest uses at the altar containing the prayers that are sung (or said) at Mass. This vernacular setting is used during Ordinary Time (from Corpus Christi to Advent and from the Baptism of the Lord in January until Ash Wednesday). We also use this setting for feast days of a lesser rank.

Missa VIII: Missa de angelis

Chant Mass VIII, also known as the Missa de angelis (Mass of the Angels) is undoubtedly one of the most melodiously beautiful of the approximately two-dozen Latin chant settings. This florid Mass (what a musician would call 'melismatic') is sung in our parish during Christmastide and Eastertide, as well as on major feast days, such as Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi. While the Sanctus and Agnus Dei are undeniably difficult to sing at first try, the tunefulness and the repetitive nature of some of the phrases prove memorably after a few attempts.

VARIETY

Beyond the repertoire of congregational Ordinaries, I want to point out the variety that this parish offers in the various Masses offered at our two churches. The Church in her wisdom has always balanced universality and individuality, and while everyone worships in ultimately the same Mass, the slight variations thereof recognize the individualism of the human soul.

So for those of you that prefer silence and simplicity, we have Low Masses at which there is no music at all. For those of you who prefer to worship in the richest expression of the Rite, we offer the Solemn Mass on Sundays and feast days, with the Schola Cantorum, incense, and the occasional procession. And for those of you who prefer something in between, we have that too, with our sung Masses with congregational hymns and ordinaries in addition to the propers sung by the cantor.

Even within one form of Mass, there is variety! For example, on a regular Sunday at the Solemn Mass, the congregation sings the Ordinary. (Until my arrival, the choir almost always sang it.) This change of practice enforces the primacy of place given to this music in the congregation's role. However, on feast days, the Schola sings one of the glorious polyphonic settings handed down to us through the Catholic patrimony of the last five centuries, whether it be Palestrina or Pärt. I hope that this balance is working well.

Vespers, another project introduced last fall, is a splendid addition to our liturgical life! I know of no other parish in the archdiocese that has weekly, sung Sunday Vespers in the Ordinary Form. I would encourage all of you to attend, even if you do not have time to attend the explanatory class that precedes it. Attendance has stayed strong and it is a wonderful way to draw your Sunday to a close.

Speaking of closing, I need to take this opportunity to say how pleased and proud I am with the vocal response from the congregation. Catholic congregations are notorious for being inaudible. And while there is always room for improvement, from my vantage point on the bench, the participation of the congregation has noticeably improved since a year ago. Please keep it up! And with much more to say but no room in which to say it, may I just extend an invitation? As I have remarked before, most parishioners arrive at Mass after my prelude has begun and leave before my postlude has finished, thus affording me little opportunity to get to meet and converse with you. So, please know that my door is always open! If you have any questions about what it is that I do, why it is that we sing what we sing, or if you would simply like to have a chat about nothing in particular, please feel free to drop me a line or meet me in person.

You will be hearing from me again soon as we outline the exciting things on the horizon for the coming year! Until then, may I remain,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

James D. Wetzel.

PURGATORIAL CANDLES

St. Catherine's remembers our deceased with a weekly Mass celebrated at 7 AM on Friday for those who have been enrolled in the Purgatorial Society. In conjunction with these remembrances, we have restored 6 Requiem candlesticks, which allows the burning of memorial candles for our beloved dead. These candles are now available for \$10 each, and can be arranged through the parish office.

FORMED: ONLINE CATHOLIC LEARNING RESOURCES

The Archdiocese of New York has partnered with the online Catholic learning resource website FORMED to provide free access to the website for parishes across the Archdiocese. The website has videos, audio recordings, and books available for streaming and/or download on a variety of topics, including the Bible, the Sacraments, and the Saints. To register, visit www.formed.org and input the St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Catherine of Siena Parish Code: 2ZFMH7.

HYMNALS AT ST. VINCENT FERRER

The worship leaflets that we have been using at both churches since last summer have turned-out to be an enormous success. Congregational participation, particularly noticeable in the singing of the Mass Ordinary (Kyrie, Gloria, etc.), has been wonderful! During this time the red Worship hymnals in the pews at St. Vincent's have been sitting unused. They were printed before the retranslation of the Mass in 2011, rendering much of the content obsolete.

Our Worship hymnals are being donated to St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen, New York. For a parish that does not have the facilities to print a weekly leaflet nor the funds to purchase new hymnals, they would be a great resource. Their pastor Fr. George Hafemann had been praying for such a gift when we approached the Archdiocesan Music Commission about a possible repurposing. Fr. Hafemann will offer a Mass at St. George's this spring for the intentions of those who originally donated the hymnals to St. Vincent's and in thanksgiving for their generosity.

COLLECTION

MAY 14, 2017

Regular Offertory: \$14,310

**National Shrine of the
Immaculate Conception: \$3,181**

Attendance: 1054

PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE

The Parish has recently launched a new Facebook page to help spread the word about special liturgies, talks, and social events at the Parish. To find the page, search @StVincentAndStCatherine within Facebook.

PARISHPAY

Fulfill your stewardship with an online service. ParishPay allows you to make donations anytime, based on your personal schedule. Donations can be made with a credit card, debit card, or e-check. To enroll visit <http://parishpay.com> and scroll down to the link to get started, or visit the parish office.

MARCH FOR THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

A March for the persecuted Christians throughout the world will take place on Friday, May 26. The March will begin with Mass at 6 pm at Holy Innocents Church (37th Street and Broadway). Following the Mass, at 7:30 PM a candlelight prayer rally will start at Holy Innocents Church with a procession with a true relic of the Holy Cross to Herald Square (34th Street and Broadway).

Let us pray fervently for persecuted and martyred Christians and minorities in Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and throughout the Middle East by ISIS, in Nigeria by Boko Haram, as well as other nations around the world. We also stand in solidarity with victims and survivors of terrorism, violence, and abuse.

LOOKING FOR A MEANINGFUL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY?

The Ladies of Charity are a diverse group of Catholic women who volunteer to meet the critical needs of those in challenging situations through:

- Engaging in Ministries with flexible time commitments in parishes, nursing homes, child care agencies, and other institutions that care for the marginalized
- The creation and donation of handmade items for those we serve
- Providing spiritual and social support for our volunteers

For more information, or to become a lady of Charity, please contact us.

Ladies of Charity
of the Catholic Charities
of the Archdiocese of New York
1011 First Avenue - NYC 10022
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DFHCM of NY

DOMINICAN FRIARS HEALTH CARE
MINISTRY OF NEW YORK

Reflections on Ethics, Faith & Health Care

EDITOR: FR. JONAH POLLOCK, O.P., S.T.L.

“PEACE BE *with* YOU”: *the* GIFT JESUS KEEPS ON GIVING

By Fr. Jonah Pollock, O.P., S.T.L., Executive Director, Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York

The risen Jesus says to his disciples, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). And again, “Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained” (John 20:22-23). Each of these statements is composed of two sentences that communicate a twofold gift. There is the gift of Jesus *to* those disciples: *Peace be with you. . . Receive the Holy Spirit*. Then there is the gift of Jesus *through* those disciples: *As the Father has sent me, so I send you. . . Whose sins you forgive are forgiven*. Saint Paul says the same thing: “God has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Cor 5:18). Through Christ, God grants reconciliation *to* Saint Paul and his fellow apostles and *through* them to others.

These gifts of God through Christ – His peace, His Spirit, reconciliation with Him – granted *to* and *through* the apostles, are likewise granted *to* and *through* those to whom the apostles are sent. This further extension of God’s gifts through Christ happens in at least two ways.

One way this happens is through what Catholic Christians call “apostolic succession.” That means the successive handing on of the specific ministry that Jesus entrusted to the apostles – the authentic, Spirit-led ministry of teaching, sanctifying, and governing – that assures the unity of the body of Christ. The beginnings of this successive handing on can be recognized in Saint Paul’s exhortations to Saint Timothy: “Stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands” (2 Tim 1:6) and, “I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus . . . proclaim the word . . . convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching” (2 Tim 4:1-2). In the Catholic Church, that succession is understood to have continued down through time even to the bishops of today.

Another way this happens is through the witness of believers. There are many examples of this in the gospels, but consider the account of Jesus and the Samaritan woman in the Gospel of John (John 4:1-44). After encountering Jesus at the well, “The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, ‘Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Messiah?’” (John 4:28-29). As a result, “Many of the Samaritans in that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified” (John 4:39).

One of the great joys of my life as a Catholic priest, Dominican friar, and health care minister is seeing how the people to whom Jesus has sent me have, in turn, been sent to others. Jesus

says, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). Jesus sends his disciples and Jesus, in turn, sends those to whom his disciples are sent. Jesus is the one who does the sending. He bestows his gifts – including the gift of being sent – through the disciples he sends. But it is he, not they, who is the giver and the sender. I have received the gracious gifts of God through Christ, who has sent me many faithful ministers of his Church and witnesses to his love. I am grateful to all of them, and all of them would gratefully acknowledge that the gifts they bore me were from Jesus and not themselves. Jesus’ gifts to me have included the gift of being sent and the gift of seeing how some of the people to whom Jesus has sent me have, in turn, been sent by Jesus to others.

I would like to share two specific ways in which I am currently able to appreciate this gift. One of these concerns the ordinations to the Catholic priesthood that will take place at St. Dominic’s Church in Washington, DC on May 20, 2017 and at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City on May 27, 2017. I intend to concelebrate both ordinations, joining my brother priests in imposing my hands upon the newly ordained who will have just received “the gift of God . . . through the imposition of” the bishop’s hands (2 Tim 1:6). Eight of those newly ordained priests – three in Washington and five in New York – will have completed our Health Care Ministry Internship Program. I, who along with other Dominican friars and collaborators have helped form these eight men for their future ministry in health care, will be deeply gratified to see them sent forth by Jesus through the grace of holy orders.

Another way that I am privileged to see Jesus sending those to whom he sent me is by visiting sick people in the hospitals we serve. I often encounter people who, through their own experiences of suffering and loss, are given newfound concern for others who experience suffering and loss. Two recent examples: One, I had an unexpected meeting after Palm Sunday Mass with a young woman who, having accompanied her mother through illness and death, is now studying to be a nurse in hopes of helping those who undergo similar suffering. Two, I visited a man who was hospitalized due to complications following a major surgery. He was reluctant to take Holy Communion or pray for himself because of his awareness of others in the hospital who needed God’s blessings more than he did. He agreed to receive Communion if he could offer the graces of that sacrament for the children in the pediatric unit and their families. “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”