

HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1603 N. THACKER AVENUE  
KISSIMMEE, FL 34741



August - 2008

Dear Minister of Praise,

Greetings of peace and joy. We hope and pray that these few lines find you well. May the blessings of peace, love and joy continue to be part of your daily life experience.

No doubt you are well aware of the old saying, "I never promised you a rose garden." As we watch the news or read the newspapers we are overcome with the sad news of today's world. We learn of the devastation of natural disasters, the sad news of innocent people being killed, domestic abuse, house fires, tragic automobile accidents, war, etc. So often we wonder if there is anything good that ever happens these days. We can easily become overcome with despair. To top all this off, we have our own family troubles and worries.

In January 2000 many waited for the end of the world to come and if the world did not end, we had the threat of Y2K! Thank goodness the many well stocked shelters were not needed as we began the year 2000. Even now, as we live in the year 2008, some still wonder if or when something disastrous will happen.

No doubt the world is still full of evil. Yes, there are many stories that inspire and encourage us but often times we are overcome with the power of evil that pervades our world. All through history, we can see the threat of evil and the impact that it has on the world. But we cannot allow ourselves to be overcome by it and must remind ourselves of God's great love. How does God react to human evil? God's anger is not the anger of a detached authority, but rather the sorrow of someone who loves what he has made and who had seen that it was very good.

God is a God of love. As we continue to pray for the many needs of our parish, we also pray that the evil that exists in our world will be overcome by all that is good. Possibly we can look at the rainbow as a reminder of God's great love for us. If you look hard enough, you will become aware of the many colors of the rainbow that are evident each and every day of our lives. The rainbow God set in the sky in the days of Noah has been seen as a sign of peace, forgiveness, reconciliation, acceptance and diversity. Perhaps the most moving aspect of the

rainbow is that God put it there not to remind us of the covenant but as God's own reminder of the covenant made with every living thing. "Never again," God promises, "never again will I doom the earth." What a comforting picture of God the Noah story gives us: God who smells the fragrant sacrifice of his grateful worshipers, God whose heart has been touched by all that his creatures have been through! Thus do the rhythms of life - seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, sadness and laughter, death and life - remind us of God's steadfast love.

How often do we hear people say that they find it difficult to understand why God does not destroy this world which seems to be so full of evil. God does love what he has made, for we read in Genesis that God "found all he made to be good." We must keep in mind the words of Jesus who says, "Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn; you will have pain, but your pain will turn to joy."

Possibly during this month we can recall God's many blessings and give thanks from the depths of our hearts for all his good gifts. Let's allow these to become the "headlines" of our daily lives. For God does love us and all he created. The world is blessed with his many blessings. All we need do is be open to them.

The enclosed cards, "God bless you" are printed with the colors of the rainbow. May God bless you in a very special way this month and during the course of the year. Allow the reminder of God's love for you be seen in the many colors of the rainbow. Try to be aware, as you pray, of the many ways God reveals himself to us. May others come to be reminded of God's great love and concern for his people.

May the Lord continue to bless you and keep you in his loving care. As always, we remain grateful for your participation in this Ministry of Prayer for it is through prayer that mountains are moved and miracles are experienced.

With best wishes and prayers, I remain,

Sincerely in the colors of God's rainbow,

*Bro. Francis*

Bro. Francis Schafer  
For the Ministry of Praise