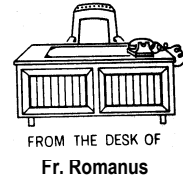


**14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 8, 2018**



Dear Parishioners,

Sunday Reflection:

In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus and his disciples return to his native place. He must have been excited about returning home and sharing his wonderful gifts and talents with his town's people. On the Sabbath, he went to the synagogue and taught them with great wisdom and unmatched eloquence. Obviously, he did not find the familiar faces of his hometown people intimidating.

Given Jesus' popularity, one would think his hometown folks would be delighted to see him. There is not much in the passage to suggest that his people were not happy to see him home. However, they were amazed at his wisdom and eloquence. Rather than celebrate his outstanding gifts, they turned to skepticism. They wondered where and how he could have received all that education and power to perform miracles.

They could not get beyond the fact that he was the carpenter, the son of Mary, and that they knew his brothers and sisters. Note that "brothers and sisters" are generic terms that included cousins and other extended family members. Some falsely refer to this passage to argue that Mary had other children. Rather than celebrate his gifts and talents, Jesus' hometown people took offense at him. Their lack of faith amazed him, prompting him to utter a familiar phrase - "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." There is a new way of stating it - "familiarity breeds contempt." We pray that our familiarity with one another as a community of faith would lead to greater love, not contempt.

Trustee Treasurer Re-elected:

About six weeks ago, I informed you that the term of office of Julia Atkinson, our Trustee Treasurer would expire at the end of June and that I was re-nominating her to serve another term. I also invited anyone who wished to nominate someone else to do so. Since there were no other nominations, there was no need for an election. Hence, in accordance with the rules, Julia Atkinson has been re-elected to serve another two-year term as Trustee Treasurer.

Please, join me in congratulating Julia on her re-election and willingness to continue serving our parish as a trustee. She serves alongside Mark Kuchta, our Trustee Secretary.

Thanks to those who organized reception:

The reception organized for Archbishop Kaigama two weeks ago was impressive. Notwithstanding the short notice, a group of parishioners and other rallied to put together a nice reception. There was plenty of food, drink and nice entertainment.

Archbishop Kaigama wishes to express his gratitude to all involved in the planning and execution of the reception. Please, join the Archbishop and me in thanking the Nigerian, Senegalese and Camerounian communities for taking the lead in planning the reception. Thanks to Chris and Bea Nwonye, Chilero and Emmanuel Agwoeme, Felicia and Edward Ike, Caroline and Jean Pierre Faye, Yolanda Coly, Deb Wuerl, Mike Malloy, John Henry and others who made it happen. Thanks also to the Nigerian women who danced for the Archbishop.

Retirements:

Please, join me in congratulating and thanking the following parish and school staff who retired this year. Paul Pagac and Tom Pagac, maintenance supervisor and custodian at the West campus and Parish site. Teri Murphy, maintenance and custodian at the South campus. Patricia Novara, school secretary at the East campus. We wish them a happy and healthy retirement.

Fr. Romanus