

A Letter From Our Pastor

Welcoming Others **INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

Dear Parishioners,

One of the blessings of living in the Diocese of Colorado Springs is the constant movement of people into our communities. Throughout the year — and especially during the summer months — families relocate here, visitors attend Mass while traveling, military families arrive for new assignments, and many people find themselves searching for a parish to call home.

For some, walking through the doors of a Catholic church can feel easy and familiar. For others, it can feel uncertain or even intimidating. A person may arrive carrying loneliness, grief, questions about faith, or simply a desire to reconnect with God after time away from the Church. Often, the first experience they have is not the homily or the music, but the welcome they receive from the parish community.

That welcome matters more than we sometimes realize.

A greeting before Mass, an invitation to coffee and donuts, a willingness to introduce yourself to someone new, or simply noticing a person standing alone — these small moments can help people experience the love of Christ in a real and personal way. Hospitality is not simply the responsibility of ushers, greeters, or parish staff. It is part of our shared calling as disciples.

Stewardship reminds us that each of us has been given gifts by God to build up the Church. One of the greatest gifts we can offer is helping others feel seen, valued, and welcomed within our parish family. In a world where many people experience isolation and division, our parishes can become places of



connection, encouragement, and belonging.

In this issue of our newsletter, you will discover opportunities to deepen your relationship with Christ through Eucharistic Adoration and learn why spending time in the Lord's presence can transform your spiritual life. You will also read about exciting plans being explored to better serve our growing parish community through expanded worship, ministry, and faith formation spaces. Finally, we invite you to consider attending one of the upcoming stewardship retreats, which offer a chance for prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal. Together, these stories reflect our

commitment to helping parishioners grow in faith, build community, and prepare for a vibrant future rooted in Christ.

As we continue through these summer months, let us remain attentive to those around us — especially newcomers, visitors, and those who may be searching for a deeper connection with God. A simple invitation, a welcoming spirit, or a small act of kindness may become the very thing that helps someone take the next step in faith.

May our parish always reflect the welcoming heart of Christ and remain a place where all people can encounter His love and presence.

In Divino Servitio ad Deum per Mariam,

Fr. John D. Stearns

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Pastor

