

CATHEDRAL OF THE RISEN CHRIST FAMILY LETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

SEPT. 25, 2011

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

<http://www.crchrist-parish.org/>

A LETTER FROM FR. THOMLISON

During a holy hour of prayer this past summer, I came across the passage where the faithful believers in Antioch first became known as Christians. Their faith, their joy, their witness to Christ was so great that Scripture tells us, "The news about them reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem" (Acts 11:22).

It's an interesting question to ponder: 'What is the news about the Cathedral parish that reaches the ears of the Church in other parts of the Diocese?' or in other words, what is it that makes the Cathedral parish unique? What defines our parish?

In my year here at the parish there have been 2 key things that have struck me about the Mother Church for the Diocese: (1) the deep roots of the parish which are anchored in the patronage of the Holy Family and, (2) the inherent joy of the Resurrection that must come to a parish which continually renews the celebration of the Risen Christ! As Catholics, we are truly an Easter people, but as parishioners of the Cathedral of the Risen Christ, we are even more specifically an Easter people – for we are greeted by the great image of the Risen Christ every time we enter His empty tomb.

Perhaps the question for us to consider is where do we encounter the Easter Joy within the holy families of our parish? Are we as a parish known for our delight in

living the Resurrection morning through the holiness of our families? Does the news about joyfulness of the Cathedral parish reach the ears of the Church in the Diocese of Lincoln? As people are moving to Lincoln and considering where to buy a home, or to locate their family, are they drawn to the Easter joy that resonates within the families of our parish and school?

I have found evidence of that Resurrection joy in many places!

I see it reflected in the faces of our dedicated Acolytes who commit time every Sunday to take Holy Communion to those who are ill or home bound. I hear it in the voices of the Legion of Mary's over two hundred auxiliary prayer warriors who commit to praying the Rosary each day for our parish. It glows in the hearts of the St. Vincent de Paul members who drop everything at a minute's notice to bring the joy of Christ to the poor and those in emergency need.

'Holiness' literally means to be 'set-aside' or reserved for a special purpose. When our families set-aside time to share in the joy of Christ with one another in worship, bible study, and prayer using Lectio Divina or the Rosary, they are by definition growing in holiness together.

The holiness of our families is reflected in the joy that radiates from our conversa-

tions with one another. The words of encouragement that we share with one another, the small acts of kindness done for another, and the sacrifices that we willingly make for the greater good of all – these are each individually small things, but they collectively echo loudly across the Church.

Literally I can hear it echo in the joy of the choir and the cantors who sacrifice time to rehearse and practice so that our worship can be uplifting and pleasing before God! It bubbles forth in the fun of our Godteen groups which meet together weekly to encourage and share with one another. It's seen in the faces of students and parents alike as they sit together as families and cheer at an Eagles volleyball game.

A useful examination of conscience for our parish each night would be to reflect upon how have I encountered or shared in the Joy of the Risen Christ today? Not only asking, 'when did I experience the Easter Joy of the Holy Family, but also when did I contribute to the Joy of my natural family as well as my parish family?'

What a delight it would be for visitors to our parish to comment as they leave the Church, this is truly a joyful people! It is my prayer that the good news about our parish's joy in the resurrection would reach the ears of the whole church!



The Holy Family

Articles are provided in a rotating basis from Msgr. Robert Tucker, Fr. Steve Thomlison, Fr. Dan Rayer and our esteemed principal Mr. Tony Primavera.

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