April 2010

What is Happening in Our Church?
A Letter from Monsignor Manuel Simas

“This day was made by the Lord, let us rejoice and be glad!” The words of Psalm 118 rang around the world this past Sunday as we celebrated the greatest liturgical day of the year. Easter Sunday is the culmination of all the hopes and dreams we have as Christians and the promise that we too, will share in the richness and the glory of God for eternity.

Eucharist is the way the Risen Lord continues to makes Himself visible to the world. Gathered weekly around the Table, we become part of the Body of Christ. We are Christ’s arms and legs, hands and feet in this world to work for justice and peace, to become the joy that spreads like Pentecostal fire as we reach out to others, feed and clothe the poor, and comfort the sick and lonely.

How lucky we are to be part of a parish with so many vibrant ministries and opportunities to serve. We are blessed with dedicated liturgists, musicians, staff and hundreds of devoted ministry leaders and volunteers. Together we are the Body of Christ and the reflection of Jesus to our community. When we look beyond our own lives and attend to the needs of others, we experience the power we have as individuals and as a parish family to make a difference in the world.

“One hour per week” is our parish stewardship goal. I encourage you to give at least one hour a week in worship, one hour a week of talent in a parish ministry, and one hour a week of wages in the plate collection. Start now in this season of Easter renewal. If you are already doing this, consider stepping up to the next level. If possible, increase your level of stewardship in each area.

Easter brings more than just the promise of a new day. It affirms God’s new covenant that we are His people: chosen, blessed and made holy in Christ. May God bless you and keep you in His loving care as we continue our journey together.

Peace and love,

Father Manny
Monsignor Manuel Simas

The Ambo

“Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” (Luke 24:32) With these words, the two disciples who had been walking on the road to Emmaus described to themselves in amazement how a stranger who mysteriously appeared to them made sense of the familiar stories of their people’s history. The identity of that stranger became clear to them at the end of their journey when they broke bread together—he was the resurrected Christ, who made the scriptures come alive in a way they had never experienced before.

In the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, the Church teaches that when the scriptures are proclaimed in the liturgy, it is Christ himself who is speaking. The Word of God has the power to save us. And so, the Mass that we celebrate today reflects the importance that we give to the proclamation and interpretation of the scripture.

Of all the reforms that were initiated nearly 40 years ago, this recovery of the Liturgy of the Word is perhaps the most profound. We might forget that for centuries, Catholics were not accustomed to hearing a wide selection of scripture passages at Mass or devotions. Still less were homilies focused on the scripture.
Communication is a key element in the success of any group effort. The Coordinating Committee will be issuing this newsletter as a regular insert into the bulletin and other church mailers to keep the parish at large informed of the progress of our project.

- Monsignor Manuel Simas
- Father Joseph Nguyen
- Ashley Weerpass
- Matthew Au
- Don Kaefer
- Lauri Kaefer
- Tony Mirenda
- Jim Petersen
- Cris Raimundo
- Debbie Rossetto
- Bill Utic

Look for each issue of the TBC Times to give you the latest update on what we are doing, what more is to come as we rebuild our church together.

The Ambo

The central focus of the area in which the word of God is proclaimed during the liturgy is the ambo. The design of the ambo and its prominent placement reflects the dignity and nobility of that saving word and draws the attention of those present to the proclamation of the word. The Christian community encounters the living Lord in the word of God and prepares itself for the "breaking of the bread" and the mission to live the word that will be proclaimed. An ample area around the ambo is needed to allow a Gospel procession with a full complement of ministers bearing candles and incense. The General Introduction to the Lectionary recommends that the design of altar and ambo bear a "harmonious and close relationship" to one another (GILM 32) in order to emphasize the close relationship between word and Eucharist. Since many people share in the ministry of the word, the ambo should be accessible to everyone, including those with physical disabilities. [61]

Our reverence for the word of God is expressed not only in an attentive listening to and reflection upon the Scripture, but also by the way we handle and treat the Book of the Gospels. The ambo can be designed not only for reading and preaching, but also for displaying the open Book of the Gospels or a copy of the Scriptures before and after the liturgical celebration. [62]