

## FEASTS

ST. BENEDICT'S ANNIVERSARY 2021

DEACON JOPP

REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING ARE OFTEN ALMOST SACRED TIMES. WE CELEBRATED THE EUCHARIST JUST A SHORT TIME AGO. NOW WE GATHER AS A FAMILY TO REMEMBER AND EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION FOR OUR BELOVED ST. BENEDICTS CHURCH WITH A FEAST. OUR CATHOLIC CHURCH IS PARTICULARLY GOOD AT CELEBRATING FEASTS.

IN A BOOK ENTITLED THE FEASTS, CARDINAL WUERL AND MIKE AQUILINA MAKE THIS INTERESTING OBSERVATION: “FEAST IS SURELY ONE OF THE HAPPIEST WORDS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. FOR THE PROMISE OF A FEAST ASSURES US THAT SOMEONE LOVES US AND WANTS US AND HAS PREPARED SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR US.” THEY WERE WRITING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE FEASTS THE CHURCH CELEBRATES OVER THE COURSE OF THE CHURCH YEAR, BUT THOSE WORDS ARE EQUALLY APPROPRIATE TO OUR CELEBRATION TODAY.

THE EUCHARIST IS OUR FEAST PAR EXCELLENCE. WE ARE INVITED TO THIS FEAST EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR. SOME OF THOSE DAYS STAND OUT IN SPECIAL WAYS. WE THINK PERHAPS OF CHRISTMAS AND EASTER. OTHER FEASTS ARE MORE LOCALIZED, BUT NONETHELESS IMPORTANT.

AT MANY FEASTS WE ACKNOWLEDGE WHO IS HERE, BUT ALSO WHO CANNOT BE PRESENT OR WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US TO THAT GREATEST OF ALL FEASTS, THE ETERNAL BANQUET OF HEAVEN. FOR MY PART, AS A LIFELONG MEMBER OF THIS PARISH AND ITS FIRST PERMANENT DEACON, I WANT TO

EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR ALL THE LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE PARISH OF ST. BENEDICT. I CAN STILL RECALL THEIR FACES WHEN I STAND AT THE PULPIT AND REMEMBER WHERE THEY SAT. THE WONDERFUL THING ABOUT MEMORIES IS OUR ABILITY TO KEEP THEM ALIVE.

THERE IS INDEED A SPIRITUAL DIMENSION TO FEASTING IF WE HAVE EYES TO SEE. LET ME CLOSE WITH THESE WORDS FROM WUERL AND AQUILINA FOR THEY SPEAK TO THE ESSENCE OF WHAT WE ARE DOING HERE TODAY AND WHO WE ARE: "THE FEASTS ARE TO TIME WHAT CHURCHES ARE TO SPACE. THEY ARE MOMENTS WE MARK OFF AS SACRED. THEY ARE MOMENTS OF SPECIAL GRACE FOR OUR PRAYER AND OUR COMMON LIFE AS A FAMILY – A CHURCH."

MAY GOD BLESS ST. BENEDICT'S.