

A Message from Heidi.....



Many of you have seen the inspirational words of Helen Steiner Rice in cards that have come your way over the years. Every year for Lent, I look for

something meaningful to help me focus on doing what I know Jesus asked us to do for the Kingdom. This year, I ran across something by this author that touched me deeply, and I thought you might also find some special meaning in it as we approach this Lenten season. She wrote:

“God did not promise sun without rain, light without darkness or joy without pain. He only promised strength for the day, when darkness comes and we lose our way.”

In reflecting on these words, it came to me that so many wonderful people here in the North Country have recently experienced job losses, home foreclosures, illnesses, financial hardships and much more. It is difficult to maintain a positive attitude when we see so much on the news that seems so wrong around the world, and then have to deal with our own troubles at home. We wouldn't be human if we didn't feel hurt and resentment. And we would certainly not be human if we didn't ask “Why me?”

The words of Ms. Rice prompted me to think that rather than asking, “Why me?” we would be better served to ask, “How can I use these hardships as challenges to respond in a way that would please God?” “How does God expect me to use these stumbling blocks to become stronger?”

Perhaps this Lent, we might consider the question - just to be sure we are asking the right one. We might consider challenging ourselves to look for the sunshine amid the rain, the light amid the darkness, and the joy amid the pain.

Office Information



REMINDER...

This is the time of year we generally offer a regional Confirmation Retreat for our parishes.

This year, we have heard from several who are doing their own planning, as well as those who will not need a retreat in this particular year of their program.

If you are not among those parishes, we need to hear from you this next week so we can plan accordingly. To date, we have heard from only one parish requesting a retreat.

Do you need for us to offer a regional retreat?

If so, please email Jeannie at jgriz-zuto@dioogdensburg.org **this week** to let her know. We will proceed in our planning based on what we hear from you.