

Dear Parishioners:

It appears if spring has finally sprung! It certainly took a while for the temperature to warm up a bit. I am not complaining because I like the weather in the 60's and 70's. Once it gets to 80 degrees, it is too hot for me!

Our "First Holy Communion" season has ended; I would like to thank Sr. Diane and all the Catechists for preparing our children for this wonderful sacrament. I also ask for your prayers so that these same children will receive the Eucharist each and every week. As Pope St. Pius X once said, "Once for all, my children, the surest, easiest and shortest way to heaven is by the Holy Eucharist". Let us pray that these children take the surest, easiest and shortest way to heaven each and every week at Sunday Mass.

This weekend, I will not be around because I am working on a weekend retreat called **RETROUVAILLE**. RETROUVAILLE is a French word for "rediscovery". *The Retrouvaille Program* is a program for couples experiencing marriage problems. The program offers tools to help couples rediscover a loving marriage relationship. The Retrouvaille program consists of a weekend experience (Friday evening to Sunday evening) followed by a series of 6 "follow-up" sessions over the next month or so. The main emphasis of the program is about communication in marriage. It will give couples the opportunity to rediscover each other and to rediscover the love they had for each other.

I have been working on the Retrouvaille weekends for almost 25 years. I highly recommend the program for any couples who are struggling in their marriage. For more information, try the Retrouvaille website: [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org). Also, give me a call at the rectory and we talk about the program as well. Before anyone calls it "quits" in a marriage, I would like to think that they would try every option before they make that decision. They owe that to themselves and, especially if they have children, couples owe that hard work to their children as well.

Remember: Together, we can do something beautiful for God.

In Christ,

Fr. Brian

PS: Don't forget the **Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA)**. Currently, our Parish is at 60% of our goal. Remember when we reach 80% in paid pledges of our goal, our Parish receives all the monies collected after that point. Please make a pledge (there are envelopes at the doors of the church) and help both the good work of the Diocese and the good work we do here at Our Lady of Lourdes.

A heart-felt "thank you" to all those who have been collecting the "**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**". Since September, we have collected over \$1,200 in **BOX TOPS**. I encourage everyone make the effort to collect them and drop them off at the church. They are found on a variety of items, especially Cheerios, Progresso Soup and Kleenex. As I say many times, it is free money so let's everyone take advantage of it.