

August 29, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Time flies. Before we even have time to really enjoy the “summer”, September is here and fall is just a few steps from now. This morning when I woke up, it was only 4 degrees on my outdoor thermometer.

On the warm-filled note, the church attendance was back to normal and it was great to see almost all the regular liturgical ministers are back.

As the signup Sunday for this year has been moved to Sept 26, the attached Fall schedule is based on the current active ministers. If you have moved, or want to take a break, please let me know. Once we have the new signups trained, I maybe able to find a replacement for you. As today, we only have three readers for both the 10:00 am and 7:00 pm mass time at St John. Readers scheduled for these mass time may have to proclaim both readings. We are also short of Communion ministers for the 10:00 am, 11:00 am and 7:00 pm, masses and hospitality ministers for the 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 11:00 am masses.

Starting September, name tags will be available for hospitality ministers on the schedule. Please come into the sacristy before you serve to put them on. Remember to return them to the sacristy after mass.

Talking about hospitality, today’s Gospel reading (*Luke 14:1, 7-14*) came to my mind:

*“But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”* I am wondering whether this is why there is an old saying, “Good Catholics always sit at the back.” You are all invited to sit in the front row. It is reserved for you.

On the note of humbleness, I would like to share something I learnt from my granddaughter few months ago:

I took Kaiya (*my four years old granddaughter*) to skating class today  
She followed all the instructions; completed all the tasks and was A-okay  
Half an hour passed fast and the class was ended  
She looked at me and said Gung Gung (*grandpa in Chinese*) I wanted more  
I said 15 more minutes; I don’t want your feet got sore.

We went to the open rink. The light was off and there was not a soul on ice  
She put the skates back on and disappeared into the rink dancing like an ace  
She floated so freely like angel with wings  
She passed and waved at me with glow on her face  
I was amazed how she can manage the skills with such a grace

I told her while driving home that I have not seen a four years old skating that good  
But the following was what she said to me in a happy and joyful mood  
“Gung Gung, you silly Gung Gung. I maybe be the fast and the best in my class  
My brother Payden is the best and the smartest person in the world.  
He knows everything and he teaches me to skate, to learn and to grow”

Her humbleness hit me like lightning bolts  
If all people on earth have the wisdom like the four years olds  
The world will be so peaceful, conflicts, fights and wars will all fold.

Cheers and God bless,

Raymond