FR. GARY'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Happy Father's Day to all the dads and granddads! You fill an important role witnessing the Gospel and mentoring your family in faith.

The readings for this weekend remind us of the unsurpassed gift that we have in Jesus. The passage from Romans says it well.

> *But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one [Adam] the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many.*

To quote the late Pope Benedict XVI,

> *Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction. Saint John's Gospel describes that event in these words: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should ... have eternal life (3:16)".*

Yes, the Good News (i.e. the Gospel) IS Jesus.

Our parish purpose statement says that the parish "exists to draw people into transformational encounters with Jesus Christ and His Church". Being a Catholic is not just about doing religious or charitable things, but about being receptive and docile to God's grace present in those things, so that we and others are changed for the better.

As a priest, one of my greatest joys is to see people encounter Jesus in a new way and be transformed by it. If you don't feel that you have changed by encountering Jesus, or if you don't think you have yet had such an encounter, seek to encounter the Lord anew.

Gratefully in Christ Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life,