FATHER SCOTT WALLISCH'S

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Flock,

Happy 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Don't tell the kids, but August is days away!

So, some of you may be wondering what a pastor does in his first few weeks of a new parish. Well, me too! You may assume that there is some handbook to guide us (Day 1 - Start a capital campaign, Day 2 - Tell your associate he is in charge of cleaning and detailing your car, Day 3 - Schedule a 6-month sabbatical…). Unfortunately, there is not. Each pastor will do it a little differently.

There is plenty for me to learn (not least of which is 10,000 new names), so I could go in lots of different directions. I have decided, though, that one of my first tasks should be to get to know the staff. After all, they do much of the work in the parish (they and the hundreds of volunteers). The pastor, it feels, accomplishes very little compared to the staff. My experience has been that I do not accomplish much at all, if not through the hard work of the staff and volunteers.

So, I am meeting with each of them to get to know them better. There are about 100 staff throughout our campus, so this will take a while, but I have met with a handful. It has been wonderful to start to become familiar with the great folks that serve you and your families everyday here at Ascension. They are talented, dedicated, hard working, and faithful.

I encourage you, if this is not already your practice, to pray for your parish staff regularly, maybe even daily. They sacrifice a lot working for the Church (none of them are becoming millionaires here), and you and I benefit from that sacrifice. So, our prayer for them would be a great way to thank them.

Okay, I hope you can spend the last few days of July having some fun. Have a blessed week.

In Christ's Peace,

Fr. Scott Wallisch