

April 4, 2010

Dear Families and Friends of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and School:

"I will put my spirit in you that you may live ...thus you shall know that I am the Lord. I have promised, and I will do it ...I will make with them a covenant of peace; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them" (Ezekiel 37:14-26).

My brothers and sisters, when God makes a covenant with us, God says, *"I will love you with an everlasting love. I will be faithful to you, even when you run away from me, reject me, or betray me."* In our society, we don't speak much about covenants; we speak about contracts. As we all have experienced, contracts are often broken because the partners are unwilling or unable to be faithful to their terms. God did not make a contract with us; God formed a covenant with us, one that is rooted in God's faithfulness more than ours. Regardless of our infidelity, God keeps His promise of everlasting love. I believe and pray that all of us – celebrating this Easter of 2010 –will experience the newness of life through the resurrection of Jesus in our praying, serving and proclaiming. Let us renew our faith in the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, so that our relationships with one another reflect that covenant and we may then live together in faith, hope, love and joy, giving visibility to God's faithfulness in our lives.

Father Curtiss Dwyer, our Seminarians, Deacon John and his wife, Marcia, Sister Marilyn, our Pastoral and Finance Councils, the Faculty and Staff of the Parish and School, and all Liturgical Ministers all join me in wishing you a HAPPY, BLESSED and JOYOUS EASTER!

I would like to thank you for the numerous gifts of prayer, time, talent and treasure you have so generously and freely given to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and School. We are making progress with the "Flame of Faith" Campaign and the "Prayer and Memorial Garden," which we formed to support our mission here at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and School. I ask your continued support of the Memorial Garden in remembering all of the benefactors and parishioners who in their love for the Risen Lord provided us with a loving parish community and school to educate students with Christian values and character. The students, in turn, in their imitation of Jesus' discipleship, transform the world by being witnesses of the Risen Christ through their continued studies, service, and works of evangelization. I invite you to consider purchasing a memorial brick to thank and remember our loved ones who made sacrifices on our behalf. They are not to be forgotten. We will remember them as we are carrying out Jesus' commandment: "Do this in memory of me."

I am blessed to be here with you – with nine newly baptized and eight candidates, coming into full communion with the Church this Easter and to see that our parish and school are flourishing and growing in God's grace. Let us respond to God's love for us with gratitude. I believe that in our response to God's love, we keep the memory of Jesus alive.

Meanwhile, my brothers and sisters, our parish and school continue to need prayer, healing, stewardship, and an increase in enrollment. Please join me in preserving the past, to build the future of our parish and school as we submerge ourselves into the Mystery of God's love for us. We are called to love and to serve one another according to our identity as "Risen Christians." Let us renew our faith as we place our security in God, who is our life and everlasting love.

May the Risen Lord Jesus Christ, through intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes, and all the angels and saints renew each of us and our families, in faith, love, hope and joy.

In the Risen Christ's love, I remain

Rev. Msgr. Peter Quang Nguyen
Pastor

P.S. We would like to thank Jesse Calderon and his brothers, who have so generously offered their time and talent in setting up the Stations of the Cross. Please come and visit the memorial garden and allow sufficient time for prayer. We are also looking forward to having the Mysteries of the Rosary in the prayer garden, which is in the stage of development.

This weekend our ushers will be handing out letters and brochures for the memorial bricks. If you have not done so, please prayerfully consider purchasing a brick.



ALLELUIA