

Dear Friends,

Appreciation and Thanks: On March 12, Thursday, I was pleased to see a good attendance at the parish communal penance service held at 7 pm. We had quite a few people to join in from the Hispanic community. I thank so much Sr. Guadalupe for being instrumental in getting her people to the service. I extend my thanks to Frs. Tom Alber from Marshall and Fr. Jobi from St. Elizabeth for making a long drive to assist us in hearing individual confessions. My very special thanks go to Marian Fleischmann, Margaret and Linda for providing us a delicious dinner to our satisfaction. It was indeed a wonderful service that we appreciated so much.

Special Collection: On March 22, Sunday, an additional collection will be taken in the name of Catholic Relief Services and Development that is, a collection 3 in 1 meant for the needs of Catholic Charities, Peter's Pence and Holy Land. Please be generous with your contributions.

Installation: On March 21, Saturday at 5 pm Mass, Msgr. Bob Kurwicki, the Vicar General of the diocese will offer Mass at Tipton and install me officially as Pastor of St. Andrew Parish and Annunciation, California. You are most welcome to witness the ceremony and interact with him.

Clarification: I am writing to clarify about what was published in the last weekend bulletin in Tipton with regard to continuation of Saturday Mass over there. It was meant for Tipton to let the parish know I had several individual requests and I wanted to get the opinion of the Pastoral Council as I had been directed. I would like you all to know that the circumstances at Tipton are different than that of California and so also they are with each Parish. Therefore, issues are dealt separately taking the existing circumstances into consideration. It was quite unfortunate that what was meant for Tipton was taken out of context and interpreted differently that led to an unforeseen argument after last Tuesday Mass and further led to phone calls and emails. I appreciate some of the phone calls and emails that have been quite positive with positive suggestions.

A Parish-wide Survey: Now concerning the individual demands for a Saturday Mass, I would like to have a survey done within the parish to ascertain how wide-spread the demand is and to get the mind of larger population. And so this weekend, a survey form will be given out with the bulletin attachment and you are requested to fill it out and return it to the parish office by next weekend. Then it will be compiled and sent to the Bishop for his final approval. I consider this as a parish-wide consultation as the Pastoral council is not going to meet until after Easter. The survey also consists of other areas on which I need to have your mind and thinking. Your prompt response will certainly speed up the process.

An approach to Parish functioning: I would like to promote open communication and transparency at all ministries of the Parish which I expect from those responsible for different ministries and services in the parish.