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FROM THE DESK OF FR. RICH

Today, we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Easter.

In Jerusalem at the time of Christ, some Jewish people spoke Greek, others spoke Aramaic, and each group went to its own synagogue. It appears that the apostles were among those who spoke Aramaic. In today's reading, we will hear some of the problems this created in the Christian community and how these were addressed.

The first letter to Peter was written to a Christian community that felt alienated from their pagan neighbors. Today the author reminds them that they belong to a special group of people, the people of God.

Mother's Day is next weekend. Here in our country, we set aside this special day to remember and celebrate these special women in each of our lives who, with our fathers, have been instrumental in not only bringing each of us into this world, but have also helped to provide loving homes that are much needed today.

We honor these women who have cared, nurtured, fed, and even sacrificed for us because of their deep maternal love for us.

Whether living or deceased, hopefully a prayer of thanksgiving will be said for your mom. If you might wish to have your mother remembered in a special way at all our Mother's Day Masses, as well as having their name on our altar throughout the year, you can do so by writing in your mother's names on the special Mother's Day envelope that was provided in your May packet of your Sunday offering envelopes, including also your Mass offerings for this purpose.

They can be placed in the collection basket at church, mailed to or dropped off at the rectory, and their names will be added to the memorial page that will be included in our parish bulletin as well as placed on our altar for an entire year. In addition, our living and deceased mothers will be remembered at all the Masses on Mother's Day.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

St. Eugene Church
Mondays 4 - 6 pm.
Benediction at 5:45 pm.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

In order to fully partake in the Mass, the Priest should be the last one in and the first one out.

Dress Appropriately ~ remember, you are in God's house.

Mother's Day weekend is also the traditional weekend that Catholic Charities encourages all Catholics to support its Annual Mother's Day Appeal. The number of calls to Catholic Charities is increasing daily from people who have nowhere else to turn. People in every parish and every neighborhood are struggling to make ends meet. More families face unemployment or the loss of a home.

Please give generously to the Catholic Charities Mother's Day Appeal. Your support of this collection gets transformed into the compassion that Catholic Charities has become known for that protects the poor and gives the precious gift of a fulfilling and dignified life to those less fortunate than us. Please be generous and remember that as you mail in or drop your offering off at church or at the rectory, you become the only source of hope to those who seem to not matter in the eyes of so many in our world.

Your donations also support programs for emergency food and shelter, affordable housing for seniors, teen parenting services, employment, and job training and so many other services that Catholic Charities provides. You can also mail your check directly to Catholic Charities at 721 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60654.

Our congratulations go out to all the young boys and girls of our parish who have celebrated their First Communions this weekend. What wonderful days these are as we welcome our youngest members to the Lord's Table for the first time!

Talking to many of our First Communicants in the weeks before they received their First Communion, it was so moving to see and hear the enthusiasm with which they were approaching their First Communion Day. We often hear how children have a unique way of influencing their parents; this is always evident at this time of year, as many of our parents are brought back to the practice of their faith because of their children's reception of the sacraments. How powerful it is to hear a parent tell me that they've come back to Mass or Reconciliation because they've realized how important it is to model their faith now for their young son or daughter. How true this is!

If only each of us realized the impact this role of modeling our faith has on our children. When your children see that on Saturday night or Sunday morning – no matter what – God comes first before any other activity, and you affirm this by giving priority to God and coming to church through your participation at Mass, there is no doubt that what you are teaching them will leave a deep impression and that they will take this example with them into their adulthood. Truly, this is when parents have fulfilled their promises that were made at their children's baptisms to raise them to the best of their ability in the ways of our faith. To you who are taking this commitment seriously, our deepest gratitude, respect, and support.

I would also like to express a sincere "thank you" to Margaret Kinel, St. Eugene School Principal and Director of Religious Education, and all our dedicated School and Religious Education teachers/catechists, especially Kristy Michel, Ashley Chagoya, Daniela Cozzone-Murphy, and Cindy Adamson, as well as the many other volunteers who helped make this year's First Communion Mass the true celebration it was.

Have a blessed week ahead everyone!

Fr. Rich Yanos