

*Grant, almighty God,
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy,
which we keep in honor of the risen Lord,
and that what we relive in remembrance
we may always hold to in what we do.*

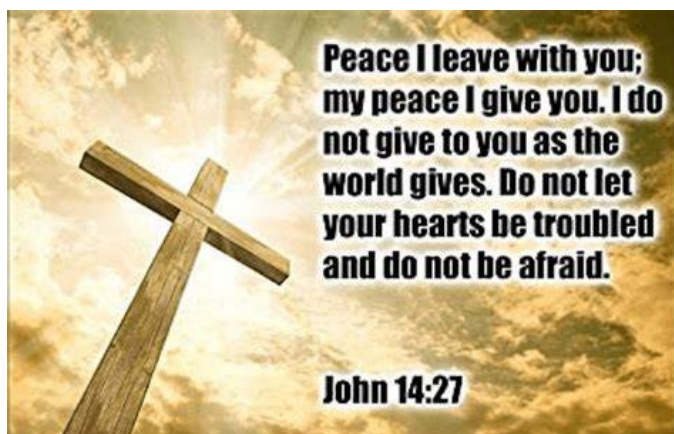
(Collect for the Sixth Sunday of Easter)

My Dear and Precious Friends,

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the incredibly wonderful celebration of the 40th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood last weekend! Your love and support filled my heart with a joy that will last the rest of my life! Please know that each and every one of you will always be in my Masses and prayers. Please continue to keep me in yours so that God will give me the strength and the grace that I need to continue in my priestly ministry for many more years to come!

On May 28th, Deacon Gary Michael will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of his ordination as a Deacon. We all thank Deacon Gary Michael for his dedicated ministry to our parish family, and I thank him in particular for his tremendous care for me which makes it possible for me to maintain my independence and continue my ministry. Please keep him in your Masses and prayers as he cares for his parents, for the students and faculty at the Lincoln Park campus of DePaul University as a public safety officer. and for all of us here at our parish. May God grant him many more years filled with much good health and happiness!

On Monday our nation pauses to honor the memory of all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives in service of our nation, bringing peace and freedom to our world. The celebration of Memorial Day began after the Civil War to



honor the 600,000 soldiers who died. It was originally called "Decoration Day" because of the tradition of decorating the graves of the fallen. Over the years it has been expanded to honor all of our war dead, which is now estimated to be well over one million. Field Masses will be celebrated at cemeteries across the Archdiocese. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.catholiccemeterieschicago.org/memorial-day/>

In Awe and Wonder of the Power of God's Love and Divine Mercy, your friend and brother always,

Father Ralph