

Father Michael's Musings
May 2022

Our grandkids are now in the last 6 weeks of school. They have had a great year, full of achievement and growth, and yet I see them struggling to endure and end on a high note. It seems as if they are running low on gas, and the teachers are also running low on inspiration. Of course, their struggles are reflective of the community as a whole. We have had a great battle against Covid and the economic and familial hardships caused by the pandemic, and we comported ourselves admirably. We endured, we maintained our compassion and our charity. We have reached the end of that battle, and the reaction isn't triumphant celebration, but weariness.

While we might feel this malaise most palpably right now, it is the common experience of man. The Church recognizes this cycle and reflects it in our Calendar. We just endured the 40 day long battle against the devil and our inclination to his temptations. Our spiritual discipline was culminated in the great celebration of Easter, and our salvation in the Lord's Resurrection from the dead. The Sunday after Easter is called Low Sunday. Low in attendance and energy. The Church uses these 40 days after Easter to rebuild our spiritual reserve and to re-energize our communities, so that we can begin to look forward to the next challenges and to replenish our hopefulness and compassion.

The Church plays a special role in our recovery and rehabilitation after great battles. It is the place we go to reopen our hearts and souls to the restorative grace of God. He acts directly on us through the power of the sacraments and Scriptures. He gives us the patience, courage and grace to be the vehicles of healing, encouragement and kindness that we need to lift our spirits and our aspirations back to the ultimate goal and Victory.

I encourage you, if you are feeling the weariness and emptiness that comes at the end of battle, to come to Church to be restored, revitalized and empowered. If you have that compassion and energy in you already, come and share it with your friends and family, amplified by the comfort of God's grace. The victory we have achieved is a great accomplishment. With God's help, and the community of love in our parishes, we will be ready to achieve the greatest Victory of everlasting life and joy and Love in Jesus Christ.