

## September 2018 Pastoral Letter

*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Mark 1:35*

*While with a eye made quiet by the power  
Of harmony, and the deep power of joy,  
We see into your life of things. William Wordsworth*

My Dear Friends in Christ,

The days are just packed! That's what we're apt to exclaim when we think we can't possibly fit in another appointment! And yet that is what it feels like as I survey our church's September calendar.

Among the month's activities and events is the opening class of Education for Ministry (EFM) on the 4th, plus the start of the parish program year, with Dedication Sunday on the 9th (including the return of our choir from their summer recess and a diocesan visit by Canon Scott Slater).

On September 8th, our own Father Jay Croft and his wife Frances celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary by renewing their marriage vows, in a service at which I have the honor of presiding (followed by a reception in Memorial Hall). On the 11th, the Frederick Community College class on medieval history begins in Memorial Hall, part of their continuing education series. On the 17th, the Frederick-area chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) meets for its annual fall potluck supper and speaker series. And on the 29th, Transfiguration hosts a gathering of the Small Church Movement, organized and facilitated by our Assistant Bishop Chilton Knudsen.

Whew! It makes one tired just thinking about it! And all of this in addition to our regular Sunday morning worship and adult study, combined during the week with the Red Door meetings of our AA friends and (soon) rehearsals by the Frederick Chorale. And yet none of this takes the place of occasions that will bring us together simply as parishioners, in moments of fellowship, education, physical and spiritual nourishment and just plain fun! So, stay tuned!

In the meantime, take time for yourselves! And for God. Be intentional in your prayer life, beginning each day with self-dedication to our Creator and Redeemer, ending each day with thanksgiving to that same Spirit. Take home the prayer intentions from Sunday and reflect in a conscious, focused way on the needs others may have for healing, encouragement, and hope. Pray for the nation and the world.

And set aside specific periods during the day to accomplish this. There's even a rhythm that we can get into (gleaned from the monastic model), of prayer, work, exercise, reading a recurring pattern that keeps our minds alert, our souls attuned, and our hearts set on the challenges of faith and on those gifts, God has given us to meet them. It will give us a needed balance by which we can more effectively proclaim and live the Gospel.

I look forward to seeing you and joining you for our several events this month and throughout the fall. I joyfully anticipate the mission work we will engage in. And I also look forward to the thought of each of you praying, individually and together with the Church, for the success of our many ministries, for the feeding of our souls and those of others and all to the glory of God.

Many blessings,  
Fr. Gordon +