

September 30, 2018: Fall Equinox and the Feast of the Holy Rosary

Dear Parishioners,

We have just passed the fall equinox. The change in season is quite noticeable. I have noticed these changes as I have been taking many walks in Woodway. I have been walking as much as my schedule will permit in preparation for another walking pilgrimage in Italy that I will be taking in late October. Last year I walked along what is called the Way of St. Francis, starting out from Assisi, the town where St. Francis was born, raised and is buried, and walked to Rome. It was about a 125 mile journey over 11 days. This year, with 5 other pilgrims (who are parishioners, except one), I will be walking the northern portion of the Way of St. Francis.

This Way of St. Francis includes places where St. Francis stayed and moved in his ministry of preaching the Gospel and calling people to conversion. There are many monasteries and churches along the way and we plan to celebrate Mass each day. We will begin near Florence and walk to Assisi. Once again, the trip will take 11 days and cover about 125 miles. However, I am advised by the person who is organizing the pilgrimage that this walk includes some rather steep elevation climbs. One stage climbs over 3000 feet. Thus the need for me to keep walking; my body isn't what it was 20 years ago! I hope to shed a few pounds along the way...that is, if I do not eat too much pasta.

October is upon us, and that means something special for our parish. October is the month of the Holy Rosary, and October 7th is the Feast of the Holy Rosary. This is our parish feast. In the past few years we have had a special Rosary procession to celebrate our parish feast. I invite everyone to participate in this special event on Oct. 7th after the 9AM Mass, as we process around our property with songs honoring Our Lady and praying the Rosary together as a parish.

There is special grace and power in praying the Rosary together. Our world, our country, our Church and our parish need this prayer in these troubled and divisive times. Our Lady of the Rosary is a force for unity and peace; she is Mother of God, Queen of Peace and patroness of our parish. Praying the Rosary brings about peace in our souls and community. I know that many parishioners have made a habit of praying the Rosary daily. During this month of the Holy Rosary I would encourage everyone to pray the Rosary daily. It only takes about twenty minutes, twenty minutes well spent. The rosary is very versatile; I often pray the rosary while walking.

In Christ,

Fr. Vincent