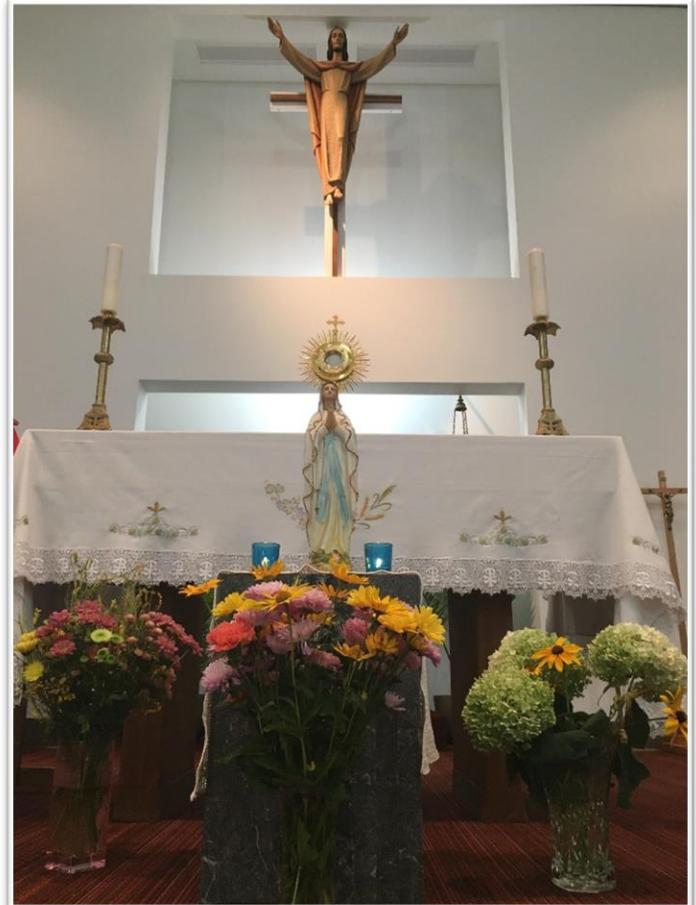


### THE SHEPHERDS WALKING STICK

Last Tuesday, August 11, four children from two families participated in the Children's Rosary. Kneeling in front of the image of the Blessed Virgin while the Blessed Sacrament was also exposed, they prayed for the intentions of all the members of the parish especially the sick and for the end of the pandemic. Take note, all parents, that Children's Rosary here in our parish is held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. Mass immediately follows the Rosary. We thank Fabiola Titchkosky for faithfully coordinating the Children's Rosary here in our parish every month..... This month's Children's Rosary coincided with



the feast of St. Clare of Assisi. During the homily, I narrated to the children the life story of St. Clare who came from a very wealthy family but decided to devote her life to Christ in poverty. She demonstrated powerful childlike confidence in God when she dispersed marauders attempting to ransack the city of Assisi by raising the Eucharist before them at the city walls. While our holiness is certainly far from that of St. Clare's, we pray that the Adoration and Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament held here in our parish every Friday immediately after the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Mass at 9 AM will also bestow on us protection from all spiritual and physical harm especially during these troubling times..... August is the month

dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. When the Blessed Mother appeared in Fatima, Portugal for the second time on June 13, 1917, she told the children that it is God's wish that devotion to her Immaculate Heart be established throughout the world. She then added that whoever embraces such devotion will be dear to God. Their souls will be like flowers adorned by her at God's throne. In other words, the reward for such devotion will be a cherished place in heaven. There are many ways to do a devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Members of the household may pray the Rosary more regularly or just the Litany of the Immaculate Heart composed by St. John Henry Newman or just this very simple prayer: "O Most Blessed Mother, heart of love, heart of mercy, ever listening, caring, consoling, hear our prayer. As your children, we implore your intercession with Jesus your Son. Receive with your understanding and compassion the petitions we place before you today, especially...(mention your intentions). We are comforted in knowing your heart is ever open to those who ask for your prayer. We trust to your gentle care and intercession, those whom we love and who are sick or lonely or hurting. Help all of us, Holy Mother, to bear our burdens in this life until we may share eternal life and peace with God forever. Amen." As I have said many times, the length of our prayer is not so much important compared to the quality of our prayer.