

THE SHEPHERDS WALKING STICK

Wonderful news!!! Last Thursday, I received an email from Manitoba 150 informing that one of the members of our parish community is recipient of the Honour 150 Program! This award is presented by Canada Life recognizing “150 people from across the province of Manitoba who give back to the community and enrich the places in which we live, work, play and come together in unity” on the occasion of the province’s 150th anniversary. Congratulations to Clare Agnew! You have made us all very proud. Be assured of continued prayers that God will bless you always in all that you do for the city of Morden..... Traffic is getting busier at certain times of the day at Academy Drive in front of the church because of the school. At the advice of the regular weekday worshippers, I have decided to move the Friday liturgy to 10 AM..... So, for Fridays of Lent, Stations of the Cross starts at 10 AM followed by the Holy Eucharist and Adoration & Benediction. The Holy Rosary will be prayed during the Adoration..... During the last two Lents that I’ve been here in the parish, I have observed that there are very few who come or ask for Confession, even fewer than in Manitou which is the smaller parish. I trust that most of you would rather go to other priests in Winnipeg or in nearby parishes for Confession. Nevertheless, I don’t want to be a remiss with regards to my responsibilities as pastor, so I would like to remind and highly encourage everyone to go to Confession during Lent even if you don’t have grave sins. If you are not comfortable receiving the Sacrament from me, fine, you can do it with any Catholic priest of your choice. The point is that you must go to Confession; you will be doing your soul a favour. If you want to receive the Sacrament from me, that is

perfectly fine too! I assure you I don't remember what somebody tells me within the context of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It must be one of the graces I received from the Sacrament of Ordination to the Priesthood. C'mon, do you know of a garbage man who keeps the garbage he takes from our homes? No, he throws it to the landfill. In the same way, the priest does not keep the sins you tell him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He throws it into the ocean of divine Mercy. Feel free to call or send me a message if you want to receive the Sacrament. Otherwise, you may come on Saturdays at 4 PM – 4:45 PM (just before the 5 PM Mass) or on Sundays at 6 PM – 6:45 PM (just before the Sunday evening Mass).

