

THE SHEPHERDS WALKING STICK

A couple of Sundays ago, I have announced here about the collection for the Holy Land. However, I have recently received a memo from the office of the Financial Administrator of the archdiocese instructing us to lump the 4 Fall special collections all of them due on September 27 (Sunday), namely: Holy Land, Pope's Pastoral Works, Church in Canada, and Propagation of the Faith. There will be envelopes on the table at the foyer, and it is up for each faithful to choose which of the collections s/he wishes to give. There will be no celebration of the Holy Mass at 7 PM on Thursday, September 24, at our church. It is because I will be in St. Claude to attend our Deanery Meeting. It will be our first deanery meeting since the covid-19 outbreak. So, I will be celebrating the Mass in private sometime in the morning on that day and no more Mass in the evening. What is a deanery? An archdiocese or a diocese is divided into groups of parishes called deaneries. A deanery is headed by a dean (hence, the name "deanery"). The term "dean" comes from the Latin word "decanus" which means "a leader among ten people". In the governance structure of the church, the dean is one of the pastors in the deanery. In behalf of the bishop, he oversees the administration of the parishes in the area; he sees to it that the liturgy is celebrated in a reverent manner; he checks if the priests are behaving proper to their status. He also sees to it that there is coordination of the pastoral activity among the parishes in the deanery and reports to the archbishop of any problems as well as any updates. We belong to the so-called Mountain Deanery headed by Fr. Vincent Lusty who is stationed in Swan Lake. The other priest-members of our deanery are: Fr. Mario Veloso (Carman), Fr. Roque Anquintero (Morris), Fr. Paulin Akpapupu (Somerset), Fr. Alain Guenou (Notre Dame de Lourdes),

Fr. Peter le Van Ngu (St. Claude), Fr. Joseph Tran (Holland). The other deaneries in the archdiocese of St. Boniface are: The French Urban Deanery, The South Urban English Deanery, The Kilcona Deanery, The Red River Deanery, The Seine River Deanery, The Winnipeg River Deanery, and The Native Ministry Deanery. For the Mass last Sunday at 11 AM, there were about 60 people inside the church and 20 at the foyer. It's the best attendance we have had since the public celebration of the Eucharist resumed. I was very happy about it, although I was beginning to feel worried that we would not be able to practice physical distancing if more people had arrived. I think we can force it to 90 people, but I think 80 is the maximum wherein we can feel comfortable and individual or family units can distance from one another. The attendance at Vigil Mass on Saturdays and the Sunday evening Mass hovers at around 30 faithful. A new group of parishioners are ministering as choir at the Sunday evening Mass. They are headed by Dennis Cosio as their accompanist. I hope that the Lord will bless their other obligations so that they can always continue in the music ministry.