



## February 6, 2011 The Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

*Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.—Matthew 5:16*

Dear Friends;

Mark Twain once quipped, “Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example.”

When Jesus instructs his followers to be salt and light, he intended that they become a community that makes a difference. The goal of our efforts and example is first self-transformation and the transformation of the world.

Salt was used for many things in the ancient world. It was a preservative of food. It was used to sterilize and purify—a newborn would be rubbed down with salt. It also was used mixed in dung so that the dried dung could be ignited and burned.

Light allows us to see our way. It helps to ward off that intent on malicious activities. Light makes things to grow and live. I have chickens, and have observed that the amount of daylight (which gets longer in the springtime) that starts the hens laying. Light brings warmth. It lets us see the beauty around us.

To be a community of salt and light, means that we are called to be a “contrast society.” That means that as Church we are called to live a lifestyle that stands in contrast with the rest of society. We do this not to be different but to transform the society at large through our example.

The Second Vatican Council’s *Constitution on the Church* calls the Church a Sacrament and sign of the unity to which God calls all humanity. Like salt and light we promote and preserve life and reveal the beauty of God’s creation. We can only do this work of Jesus together.

Next weekend we are installing and blessing the members of our Pastoral Council for this coming year. The Pastoral Council’s role is to assist the pastor and the staff in discerning the ways in which we as a parish community live out our mission. They listen to the needs of the community, the call of Jesus and help to shape our goals and mission. They also help to build up the unity of our parish and advise the pastor and staff. This is a tremendously important role.

Our Council meets monthly as a group. And soon will be meeting with our various ministries in groups. The groups of these ministries are categorized by our Covenant—worship, connect, grow and serve. These are the ways we at St Anne try to be salt and light for the world.

I am very grateful to Lynn Tiemeyer our council facilitator and the members of our council: Veronica Caballero, Stephanie Durflinger, Jennifer Evans, Judy Konieczny, Phil Mora, Carol Ruiz and Angella Ven John. May the Holy Spirit build us up in love and unity, so we can be a sacrament of God’s love for the world.

Peace,

*Fr Ron*