

A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

Actually, it won't even cost that much. Late last year, a member of our Parish Pastoral Council came across an item in a parish bulletin from a church in another state and brought it to the attention of the other Council members at one of our regular meetings. It was a "survey" of sorts, designed to solicit positive suggestions from parishioners to help improve the life of the parish. The Parish Council agreed that this would be a good thing for us to do and the Parish Staff agreed. We had planned to introduce this at the beginning of Lent, but complications arose with regard to the printing process for the cards we needed.

So it was decided that we would use the Easter Season, the fifty days when we celebrate the life we share through Jesus' dying and rising, to invite you to offer your thoughts as to what we do well and what more we might do as a parish community. Today, you will find these cards in the pews and at all the church doors. We invite you to take one home for each family or individual, ponder the questions, offer your thoughts or suggestions, and then return the cards in the regular collection as soon as you can. The days of Easter last through the celebration of Pentecost on June 9, so there's plenty of time to get them back. These are the questions you'll see:

- What do I like about St. Joseph?
- What would I like to improve?
- What do I wish St. Joseph had more of?
- In what way could the parish involve me and/or my family?

As I said, the questions are, quite intentionally, designed to invite positive comments or suggestions. There may very well be things someone doesn't like, but those can always be phrased in a positive way, while merely griping about something is rarely very helpful. It's also important to point out that there will always be limits to what any parish can do. Finances and staffing can make some "improvements" challenging, while Canon Law, Liturgical Norms and Archdiocesan policies can limit the initiatives some might want a parish to take. Nevertheless, it's always good to spread a wider net, beyond the Parish Council, in trying to address the needs of our parishioners.

Your responses will be considered by the Parish Pastoral Council and the Pastoral Staff and, at some point, I'll share all of that with you here in the bulletin. However, by the time your responses are collected, our next meetings won't be until mid-August, so please be patient if you hear nothing more about this before the September. Thanks in advance for your thoughts and suggestions.

Fr. Bob

P.S.: If you don't see me this weekend, it's because I'm at my 50th high school reunion.