

Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph,

It is a great honor that I was called to serve the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ in this wonderful community. I pray that we will continue to build up the Kingdom of God as Jesus commended his disciples to do.

There are many things yet to be done. The Pastor is an extension of office of the Bishop: to teach, to govern, and to sanctify. This three aspects of ministry that we assume at the Ordination of Priests, is an ongoing commitment that requires support and openness on behalf of the people of God.

During our transition as priests, moving to new assignments, we are encourage to keep an open heart and mind so that we can see what needs to be done. We also pray for both communities: the ones we leave behind and the new ones that we take. During this transition it is important to pray for your priests too: those who finish the race and therefore leave a safe distance between the busy parish life and quiet life, and those who are not even close to retirement. Please pray for your priests.

Our situation in Marysville will be different now. I will be the pastor, and there will not be other priests in our parish. So, during the first six months I will double my efforts to serve both communities: English and Spanish. St. Isidore has gracefully accepted from our Bishop to help us. But even with this helping hand, I still have a heavy load.

For this reason, I ask you to bear with me so we can make this a blessing rather than a penance of both. In the main time, I am going to try to fix the schedule for masses, include the deacons for weekend homilies once a month and work with the parish staff to improve our finance situation of the parish.

I also plan to work the One Campaign Committee. My hope is that we will accomplish our goals and move on. I know there are many other things that I need to cover, but for now I just wanted to say "Hi".

- *Fr. Manuel Ponce*