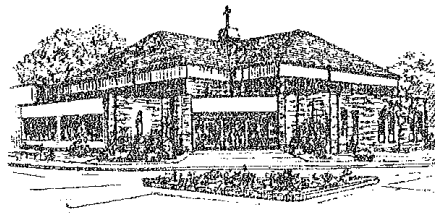


# Queen of the Universe

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Dear Parishioners,

The Word of God comes down from the heavens. It is like the rain that falls to water the earth, 'making it fertile and fruitful.' God's Word is the source of a vibrant and vital community life!

This kind of life is what I and countless others witnessed and encountered this past Sunday, both in the Sacred Liturgy and in the Parish Picnic following my installation as pastor of The New Queen of the Universe. A united community of faith praying, singing, walking, talking, and working together happily and courageously, without being afraid of what the Lord asks of us or of where He leads us. A Gift of the Holy Spirit energizing our new community of faith, just as the apostles received on the first Pentecost!

I want to express my deep gratitude to the countless volunteers who prepared all the sacred details of the Mass, the delicious foods, and the various decors for the picnic in the field. You really did a phenomenal job together and I appreciate all that you did to make it a splendid afternoon for the new parish, officially gathered together for the first time. I hope there are many such occasions in our upcoming years together as a new parish family. The Hospitality Committee has certainly grown in the last few weeks, as so many volunteers came out from all directions in order to host an unexpected reception for well over 700 people. And you didn't miss a beat serving and hosting, while smiling in the sweating humidity.

During these summer days, the initial days of transition are still underway. We can see that goodness is all around us. Next week, we have the first gathering of all the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors (information is included in this week's bulletin). Shortly after that, I will meet with the Transition Team representatives as we navigate the next action steps necessary for us to successfully build a new parish community.

Once again, thank you for all you did and all you will do together as a united people of God.

Peace,

Father Mike