



From the Pastor's Desk

“. . . for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and [Jesus] began to teach them many things.” (Mk 6:34b)

With the retirement of **Fr. Condon**, the principal shepherd of, first, St. Louise De Marillac, and, later, the newly-combined parish of Holy Guardian Angels, I have been appointed by Cardinal Cupich to fulfill Fr. Condon's role as pastor, and principal shepherd, of Holy Guardian Angels.

My name is **Fr. Brian Kean**. I grew up in **Park Ridge** and was a parishioner of **Mary Seat of Wisdom**, where I attended grade school. After college, I entered the work world with Bachelor of Science in Accountancy and a Certified Public Accountant designation.

I worked mostly for large, corporate banks as an internal auditor, accountant and financial analyst.

At some point, probably while trying out numbers on a bank reconciliation, I decided that I was not getting a sense of satisfaction and joy from my career.

Having become more involved in the faith and recalling a childhood desire to become a priest, I decided to more fully explore this sense of vocation that I had had.

After months of discernment and prayer - and having gone through **In Search**, an Archdiocesan vocation program geared toward men with careers, I decided to enter seminary, where my vocation was confirmed and I entered the priesthood.

Since I have never looked back or wondered if I had made the right decision, I take this as a good sign that I made the right decision.

This Sunday's gospel reading supports our Catholic understanding of the primary role and identity of a priest to be that of a teacher.

Unless people know the faith, they will not be able to practice it and, as such, they would be severely restricted in knowing God and from an opportunity, blessing, and grace to grow ever closer to God's life in Christ.

In today's gospel, while seeking rest for his Apostles – who have just returned from teaching the Good News throughout Judah and Galilee, Jesus stops and takes time to teach the crowds, who have been searching for him.

In addition to teaching, a priest's role and identity also include governing and sanctifying which, respectively, mean overseeing the implementation of Christ's mission and confecting, or making present, the Sacraments.

This does not mean that *only* priests are supposed to teach, govern, or sanctify. It is expected that all baptized Christians participate in the work of Christ to gather and support all people to attain their highest good and greatest joy – salvation and the unveiled vision of God's glory.

As such, all the baptized share in Christ's kingship (mission of service), priesthood (mission of sacrifice) and prophethood (mission of teaching); however, only ordained deacons and priests share in the *ministerial* aspect of Christ's kingship, priesthood, and prophethood.

The ministerial priesthood essentially serves the community of baptized believers *in the Church* community by providing them with the spiritual sustenance they need to deepen their relationship with Christ and to bring Christ's mission into the "outside" world.

In the *dismissal* at the end of Mass, we are "sent from Mass," after receiving spiritual sustenance, to "go in peace, glorifying the Lord by [our lives.]"

Of course, there is overlap, as priests do outreach in the community, for example; and lay people participate in the liturgy and parish life. For example, non-ordained Catholics might teach catechism, lead ministries, or provide direction by serving on a Pastoral Council.

This "overlap" being evident, only priests have the authority, from Christ and through his Apostles and their successors, to preside at Mass, confect the sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation, Communion, Ordination, and Anointing of the Sick.

As a newly-appointed priest of Holy Guardian Angels, I look forward to joining our current priests and deacons in providing spiritual sustenance to our parish family.

In addition, as the principal shepherd of our parish, I hope to lead us to a more integrated and vital faith community that brings Christ to the world and draws the world to our parish community.

Of course, I'll need your help!

Fr. Brian