

## Pastor's Column

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### God's Waiting Room and the Cosmic Christ



Several weeks ago, I went to Massachusetts to spend a few days with Fr. Rich Lewandowski, our beloved priest who helps to “cover” for me when I am on vacation or leading pilgrimages.

While there, we travelled to Monroe, Connecticut to visit his cousin, Sister Dulcissima, who is a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Sister Dulcissima is living in their Marian Heights Retirement Home along with a handful of other sisters.

In June, Sister will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of her vows! In a few months, she will turn 100! Living in a room next door to her is another Sister who is 102!

The Sisters recently sold some acreage as well as the Home in which they are presently living. It is much too large now for their needs, and a smaller Facility is presently being built. The Home in which they are now living will be torn down.

When a Sister finds herself going to this Retirement Home, it is like an “elephant returning to the elephant burial grounds.” They know that it is the last step, the last place they

will be before they die. In a very real sense, it is “God’s Waiting Room.”

One would expect that such a place would be sad, having an atmosphere, at best, of melancholia, and, at worst, an atmosphere exuding an air of gloom and doom.

But that is not the case at all. What I experienced was the power of our Christian Faith, our belief in Resurrection.

These Sisters are creating a place of joy, peace, and solidarity. It was beautiful to see how they go through their daily routines, how they look after each other, and how they are joyfully waiting for the next step in their journey that will lead them home to our loving God.

My visit there left me inspired, and renewed in my belief in the Resurrection. The Sisters are such powerful witnesses! I pray that anyone who may be struggling with their faith, or “down” or depressed about what life may be handing them, would find a place like that to lift them up and help them to keep the proper focus on life’s journey.

While there, I went to their Chapel and saw a magnificent mosaic, “The Cosmic Christ.” It is large; the dimensions are 16’ 7” in height and 28’ in width. The artist is Clair Leighton.

Unfortunately, the Mosaic will be destroyed when the building is torn down. This will happen by the end of this year.

In talking with Sister Marita, the Director of the Retirement Home, she said that the Sisters would be very happy to gift our Parish with the Mosaic, at no cost. We would only be responsible for the cost of dismantling the Mosaic and having it shipped.

In talking with Brian Leahey, our Director of Construction, we concluded that there may be a few places in and around the Church where the Mosaic could be displayed.

With that in mind, Brian and I will be taking a closer look and will determine what the cost of dismantling and shipping would be. And how we may be able to fund this project.

So say a prayer! Maybe the Cosmic Christ will find a new home in our Parish!

I will keep the Parish informed about this possibility...

Fr. Mike