

# From the Associate Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

## Reading the Pentateuch

The first reading of today's Mass speaks of "the whole law" given to Israel through Moses at Mount Sinai. Throughout the Scriptures, when the 'law' is mentioned it is usually the Old Testament Law of Moses, found in the first five books of the Bible. These books are also called the *torah* (Hebrew for 'law') or the *Pentateuch* (Greek for 'five books'). Very often, the Church's relationship with the Law is confused, and as Catholics we are accused of hypocrisy for following some parts but not others. Are we reading the Old Testament incorrectly?

Fortunately for us, tradition provides the answer. Judaism itself distinguishes among *mishpatim*, *edot* and *hukkim* in the Mosaic Law. Without becoming overly technical, this means that both Jews and Christians have been distinguishing, for centuries, among the Divine Will, the moral commandments, the cultic rituals, the civil ordinances, and the social code of the Mosaic Law.

As Catholics we are baptized into the New Covenant given through Christ. As both St. Paul and the evangelists make clear, we are not bound to the Mosaic Law. However, we worship the same God, and share the same human nature, so we are still bound to live in accord with those realities. Therefore, we are not bound to the cultic, civil, or social commandments of the Old Law. This would include keeping kosher, or stoning to death for particular offenses. On the other hand, we are bound to the Divine and moral law. This would include worshiping the One True God, and living in harmony with God's plan for humanity.

## Youth Ministry at St. Rosalie's



I am happy to announce that St. Rosalie's has begun the process of implementing a parish youth group for our teens. We will be subscribing to Life Teen, which assists parishes in implementing and sustaining youth ministry. I would ask that you please join me in praying for our young people, and for the successful implementation of the ministry. I would also ask the adults of our parish above 21 years of age to discern if you would be willing to assist as a member of the ministry. More information on this is forthcoming.

## The Feast of St. Rosalie

Next Saturday, September 8, we will be celebrating the feast of St. Rosalie at the 5 p.m. Mass. Following the Mass and procession, we will have a barbeque and family activities in the Community Center. Please join us in celebrating our patronal feast!

*Ad Iesum per Mariam,  
Father John*

