

## 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time January 19, 2020 - Pastor Fr. Hilton's Bulletin Message

Finally.... your new pastor is here! My warm thanks to Fr. Doug Grandon for taking great care of you during the past two months while I've been in recovery. What a wonderful servant of God he is. He and I have become good friends over the past several months and I have no end of admiration for him and his talented wife Lynn.

How did my heart valve surgery go? Thanks be to God, it was a complete success. The surgeon was able to repair the leaking mitral valve instead of having to replace it. This means my heart is operating completely normally and should remain this way for the rest of my life.

What was the experience of having open heart surgery like? I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy! I had more tubes and wires coming out of me than you could shake a stick at. Just getting out of bed and walking a few steps down the hallway was exhausting. The only good part of the experience was having my beloved sister Dawn and brother Greg with me at my bedside for two weeks. What a great difference they made. As soon as I was well enough to travel, Monsignor Doug Raun drove me down to his parish of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rio Rancho, New Mexico where I spent the past six weeks recovering my strength. He and I have been great friends since 1975 when we were classmates at Saint Thomas Seminary. He provided wonderful hospitality and the perfect place to rehab.

Am I at a hundred percent? Not yet. I need to walk an hour a day (if you want to go with me give me a call as I'd enjoy your company) and do an hour of cardio therapy at the gym for the next two to three months. I tire a bit more easily than I'd like but this will pass quickly.

What's on the calendar for my first week at Saint Vincent's? I'll sit down with each of the staff ministry leaders at the parish and school so they can bring me up to speed on the amazing things they're doing. I'll attend meetings with the financial officers of the Archdiocese of Denver to become better informed of the serious financial issues facing our beloved parish. I'll set up meetings with the Pastoral and Financial Councils in order to develop a plan to resolve our financial problems and put our parish on a solid fiscal footing. I mean to resolve these issues as quickly as possible because our Heavenly Father has wonderful plans for Saint Vincent's future and this is where He wants us to devote our energies.

I'm very excited to hear that two hundred of you have signed up for Bible In A Year 2020!

During the coming year you'll read the entire Bible with a special study edition to help guide you. Because it's true that love for sacred scripture is love for Jesus Christ, your love for and confidence in our Savior working in your life is about to deepen dramatically. It's not too late to join the journey. Drop by the office to pick up your study Bible and register.

In Jesus and Mary, Fr. John Hilton