

Queen's Quotes



Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary

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from the Pastor. . .



Father Dan

What A Great Network!

The Diocese of Lexington is a mission diocese. Because of the poverty of the parishes in Eastern Kentucky, we cannot fully function as a diocese without help from the outside. Years ago, the diocese in the United States formed what is called the Mission Co-op Program. In this program, each diocese in the United States invites someone from a mission diocese or an international missionary order to come to each parish once a year in order to raise awareness about the missions, and to seek financial support for the missionary work. Because of COVID restrictions, the Program has been suspended in many dioceses this year. But the diocese of Lexington was blessed to receive an invitation from the diocese of Manchester (New Hampshire) for someone from Lexington to speak at one of their parishes. Our diocese chose me for this task, and so I traveled to the parish of Corpus Christi in Portsmouth New Hampshire in order to speak at all of their masses on the weekend of September 18 and 19th.

I decided that I would drive to New Hampshire, taking a few extra days on the way there and back. I visited with a couple in Frederick Maryland, whom with whom I became friends when they were in college and I was in major seminary in Emmitsburg Maryland. I hadn't seen them for 10 years, when I traveled to Maryland for his ordination to the permanent diaconate. It was so inspiring to see them as an aging couple, exulting in their grown children and their tribe of grandchildren who brought such life to the house. I was also inspired by the way that they would sit and pray Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer together in the house.

I next made an overnight visit with my niece and her husband who live outside of Philadelphia. I have never visited them there, and hadn't had a long conversation with them for a dozen years. Their love for their children in college, their courage and persistence in dealing with the illnesses they are facing, their passion for justice and love for life shown forth.

I received tremendous hospitality at Corpus Christi parish in beautiful Portsmouth New Hampshire. The people were touched by my message, and have been very generous. Some of them are now planning to make a visit to do some work in Eastern Kentucky in one of our parishes. Their liturgies were beautiful, and the people participated very well. I had a chance for a two hour walk along the beachfront on a picture-perfect day.

On my return trip to Kentucky, I visited with an old seminary friend and his wife north of Pittsburgh. Supper with them, their son, his wife and his mother-in-law marked a new stage in a long-time, deep friendship. Their son's mother-in-law had recently lost her husband, and I had some good opportunity to listen to her talk about that journey. We all need someone to listen to us deeply.

On the last day of my journey home, I had a cup of coffee with a great priest friend of mine south of Pittsburgh. He is retiring from the assigned priestly ministry on November 2, and I am taking notes. He plans to visit us in Kentucky in early November. I also stopped in Louisa, Kentucky, to visit Father Mike Ramler, pastor of the parish there. He is recovering from a stroke, It was an honor to give him support and encouragement, as a brother. He is a great man, and seems to be recovering well.

What a blessing it is to belong to this great large community which is the Roman Catholic Church!!