

From the Pastor's Desk
March 27, 2011

During the Fifth Week of Lent, we will be treated to a Lenten retreat here at our parish. Father Bob Lombardo, CFR, will be coming from Chicago to preach the retreat. He will celebrate and preach at the weekend Masses on April 9th and 10th, and then he will give talks at 7 pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings (April 11th thru 13th) in the church. On Tuesday evening, we will also have our Parish Penance Service, so we will have a number of priests available to hear confessions.

Father Bob oversees the Mission of Our Lady of the Angels, which provides Catholic outreach on the west side of Chicago in one of the poorest neighborhoods. Father Bob uses all of his gifts and works not only as a priest, but also as a construction manager, fund raiser, counselor, accountant, and friend to those in the neighborhood around the Mission and all of the volunteers who come week after week to help. Fr. Bob graduated from Notre Dame University in 1979 with an accounting degree and went straight to work for Price Waterhouse. Soon, however, the call to become a priest could not be denied. As a young priest, he did missionary work in Bolivia and Honduras with orphaned street kids, organized youth programs on Manhattan's lower east side, and then directed the Padre Pio Shelter for the Homeless. He was a founding member of the *Franciscan Friars of the Renewal* (Fr. Benedict Groeschel's order) and a member of the Franciscan Friars Preaching Team for decades. Fr. Bob is a beloved and highly sought after speaker and retreat leader, locally, nationally and internationally. I am excited that he is coming to St. John's!

In Christ Jesus,
Father Berg