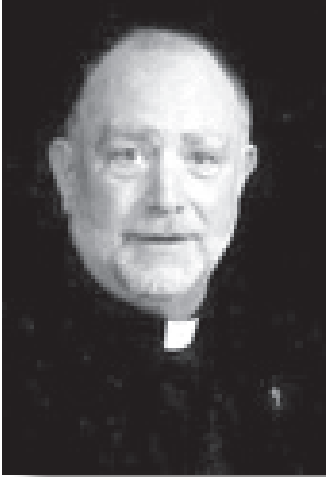


# MESSAGE FROM SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

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REVEREND ROBERT E. (BOB)  
KNIPPENBERG  
KJT State Spiritual Director

Labor Day is observed in the U.S. this year on September 4. For most of us, it “officially” marks the end of summer vacation season and is observed, ironically, by a day off work! But, for the Christian, Labor Day is more than just a day off work.

For the Christian, “work” is an invitation to participate in God’s extraordinary plan for the salvation of the world, if it is joined to Jesus Christ. No matter what we are doing we are, as St. Paul wrote, to “do it as unto the Lord” (see Col 3). Our work then changes “the world”, both within us and around us. This means all work - not just the so called “spiritual” or “religious” stuff, has redemptive value. Remember, God Incarnate did not just do the “spiritual” stuff. All human work sanctifies and changes the world which God still loves. St. Paul captured the hope of all creation when, in the eighth chapter of his letter to the Romans he reminded us

## Celebrating Labor Day

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that all of creation “groans” for the full revelation of the sons and daughters of God. We can have a new relationship with the entire created order—beginning now—because we live in the Son, through whom and for whom it was all created and is being re-created.

In his encyclical entitled “On Human Work” (1981), Pope St. John Paul II spoke of the “gospel of work.” This insight from Pope St. John Paul II is important for us to consider on Labor Day. There truly is a “gospel of work.” Let us renew our hearts and minds and live this gospel of work in the way in which we engage in labor. In His Ascension, Jesus did not

leave us orphans. Rather, He lives in us and we now live in Him, through the Holy Spirit. He has capacitated us to live differently, NOW, through the Grace poured out through the Holy Spirit and mediated to us in the Sacraments. We can live this “Gospel of Work” in an age which desperately needs a new living witness of its dignity, meaning and true value.

Happy Labor  
Day!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Bob Knippenberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.