

RE-CREATION

All of us know that summers are for recreation. Perhaps, fewer of us remember to use that time in which to get personally re-created. This particular time that God gives us as a gift can be a time of strengthening our relationships with our families and friends; and, of course, with the Creator Who brought us into existence. That can happen through a greater appreciation of His creation.

We read in Sacred Scripture that God turned his creation over to humans for their enjoyment. The Divine Master, as any artist, rejoices in the praise and glory that we give Him.

Summertime was especially appreciated by my parents. They enjoyed getting into the car and going for a ride. It did not matter where, just as long as it was a trip somewhere.

I still marvel at how my father and mother were able to express in their simple way an appreciation for what they observed, as we drove through the countryside. They could spot a colorful bird in the tree or a lone flower on the bank of the roadside ditch without much effort. These would elicit from them words of awe and wonderment, as they pointed out the smallest details.

Our excursions served as relaxation, but, even more importantly, they were the cause of a deeper understanding of each other's spirit and a firmer bonding. My visits to my parents' home almost always included a "ride". And, almost always, I returned to the rectory with a greater sense of connectiveness. That may very well be what Saint Francis of Assisi lived out in his being in harmony with all of God's creation around him. Such harmony appears to overflow into a state of peace with ourselves and with other men and women.

This is my favorite season. To me, the Allegheny Mountains are the most beautiful at this time of the year. Their hues of green are so pleasing to the eye and relaxing to the state of one's mind. And, among them, there is life and beauty. There are the trains rounding the bend across the valley from Route 22. A hang glider jumps off the cliff between Lock Haven and Renovo. Deer come to graze along the road and watch humans go by. The Juniata River winds its way through valleys and across rocks. It is impossible to count the number of alluring sights that one encounters traveling through our Diocese. It is so easy to take them for granted or, even worse, ignore the fact that God gave them existence for our enjoyment.

I pray that this summer will be a special blessing to all of us in this Diocesan Church. We live in a beautiful corner of God's earth. It is important that we take time to focus on those that are important to us and to appreciate the setting into which we have all been placed. Together, we form one reality and are a part of the one masterpiece. May each of us be re-created in it, as summer comes all too quickly to an end!