

FROM THE PASTOR

My dear brothers and sisters,

The Scriptures this weekend speak about **discipleship**. We are called to follow Christ, to walk as He has walked, to form our lives, our thoughts, our actions on Him, continually to learn from Him. The first step of discipleship – of following Christ as a Christian – is to hear about Him, to meet Him, and it is God Himself who opens our ears (cf. Isaiah 50:5). Once we have encountered Christ, we then must come to know who He is. St. Peter states clearly today that Jesus is “the Christ,” the Messiah (Mark 8:29). Then Jesus instructs the disciples about how He is Christ – He is the suffering servant who will be killed and then rise again. Once we have encountered Jesus, and come to know Him more, then there is action that must be taken – “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me” (Mark 8:34). This action looks like something – it looks like caring for neighbor, and being generous (cf. James 2:17-18).

We are called to follow Christ, to be His disciples. As such, we need help, since none of us come to Jesus on our own. As a parish, we have signed up for an exciting new on-line program called **FORMED**, which can help us to grow in our discipleship. **FORMED** was put together by Lighthouse Catholic Media (the people that put out the CDs at the entrances of the Church), and it is available on-line for all the souls within our parish (those who are registered, and, really, anyone in Pelham or who is connected with St. Patrick Parish).

So how does it work?

You go to www.formed.org and click on the “sign up” button. You enter the Parish Code: **nr3434** (case sensitive), and fill out the information. Then you start enjoying!

There is unlimited access to the best eBooks, talks, and videos in the Church today!

This is an excellent opportunity for St. Patrick Parish to grow in discipleship. As I mentioned this past weekend, we are called to be open (*Ephphatha*) – our ears are open to receive His Word (prayer and study), and our mouths are open to proclaim His Faith to the praise and glory of God the Father (generosity and evangelization). This resource can help us pray, study, teach us to be more generous of ourselves, and share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

I invite you to sign-up, to use **FORMED** at no cost to you. Take the opportunity to grow closer to Jesus, and to find out more about this incredible Church that He established as His Bride!