



## **St. John Vianney: A Man for Our Times**

On Thursday, August 4, we celebrate the feast of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests. He led an interesting life and I would like to share his story with you. He was a man with vision, and had to overcome many obstacles to see his vision realized. First of all, he wanted to be a priest, but his minimal formal education did not prepare him well to study theology in the seminary. He was not able to understand the lectures given in Latin and was forced to discontinue. His vision of becoming a priest, however, encouraged him to seek tutoring. After a long struggle, he was ordained.

As pastor of the parish at Ars in France, he encouraged people who were indifferent and quite comfortable with their lifestyle to become more interested in the Lord and how best to serve Him. He prayed and fasted constantly for their conversion, remembering Jesus' comment, "Some devils can only be cast out by prayer and fasting."

St. John Vianney is well known for the eleven to sixteen hours a day he spent hearing confessions, reconciling people with God. He certainly was a dedicated man with great faith. Otherwise, he would never have been able to endure the difficulties that faced him. Many people look forward to retirement and relaxing, planning to do things they never had time to do before. St. John Vianney did not think of retirement, for as he grew older he spent more time serving the people.

St. John Vianney stands out as a man who did not become comfortable with material possessions, as so many people in the world are today. His life reminds us that we can live more simply, and serving others should be our top priority. Living life as people of service and prayer truly will bring peace and ultimate happiness, not only to those we serve, but ourselves as well.

*Father David*

(Information on St. John Vianney's life taken from "Saint of the Day" by Leonard Foley, O.F.M.)

### **Capital Campaign Update**

As of July 23, we have collected \$132,311.00 for our Capital Campaign. I thank all those who have supported the campaign thus far and ask those who have not yet responded to prayerfully consider what you are able to give to this important campaign to ensure that our buildings are beautiful and worthy of the many things we do in the parish complex. Thank you!

*Fr. David*