

Dear Friends,

On the evenings of March 2nd, 3rd and 4th, we will have a parish mission entitled, KNOW THAT I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS. This mission will be carried out with St. Mary Parish, DeKalb. Fr. Ken Anderson, Pastor of St. Mary Parish, will speak here, and I will speak there. The mission will begin at 7:00 pm each night at each location.

Fr. Ken Anderson and I have known each other since the summer of 1979 when we attended Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, together. We both majored in Sociology. Then, we attended St. Meinrad School of Theology in Southern Indiana for three years together until I took my hiatus. I was studying for the Archdiocese of Dubuque back then. Now, we are brother priests together here in the Rockford Diocese and I feel so blessed that Ken and I are close together.

We are calling the mission KNOW THAT I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS because it is going to be centered on the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. These are the sacraments the members of the RCIA receive at the Easter Vigil each year. These sacraments speak about the profound journey of conversion we experience in our lives as we respond to the call to be disciples.

At the end of Matthew's gospel we hear these words:

The eleven disciples went to Galilee,
to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them.
When they all saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.
Then Jesus approached and said to them,
"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

Through the Sacraments of Initiation we become disciples of Christ called to follow him each day of our lives. But this journey is one we do not

take alone. Jesus Christ comes to light for us through the Church, the sacraments and in many other ways. During this Lenten Mission we are going to talk about the call to Christian discipleship and the ways that Christ makes his presence known to us.

I hope that people will make every effort to come to this mission. I believe it will be inspirational, informative and enlightening to us all.

In joyful hope,
Fr. Tim Seigel