

Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church, Oct. 22, 2017

Before coming to Holy cross, I served as pastor in several country parishes. I remember that in one of them, the old-timers told me, that years ago, when the church was built, each family was assigned to cart in one wagon load of field stone to build the church. They were all farmers, so they dug the rocks out of their land. That's how the church was built. Everyone contributed their efforts and resources.

When this parish was founded nearly 50 years ago, it will be 50 years next year, and when this church building was built, and when it was renovated 2 years ago, we followed the same basic principle. Maybe you didn't bring a load of rocks on a wagon, but you brought your resources to this community.

And you continue to bring your resources to this community, your gifts of time, talent and treasure. You bring them out of gratitude to God for the many blessings we have received. You bring them, because the church is not just a building. It is a community of faith. And we are the living stones, fitted together that make up the church.

As we hear in the second reading of today's Mass: "You too are living stones, built as an edifice of spirit, into a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

We are formed into a community of faith, a temple where God resides. Fundamentally, it is built upon the rock of Peter. As we hear in the gospel reading, Jesus tells Simon Peter, "You are rock, and upon this rock I will build my church." Our church sets upon a firm foundation, upon St. Peter, upon the many generations which have gone before us, upon those who established this parish. We have a strong legacy to continue.

Maybe you are one of the founding members of this parish. Or, maybe you just moved here last year. In any case, we all belong together. We all are living stones, fitted together to provide a dwelling place for the living God. That is what we celebrate, on this anniversary of the dedication of our church.

