

St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parishes
Acton, Boxborough, and Stow, Mass.

July 17, 2016

Dear Parishioners,

Although we're in the middle of the summer, the staff and I are in full swing planning for the fall. A good deal of our work bears on programs and activities that may be routine, but still need careful preparation. One item, however, is not routine, but unique and extraordinary. I would like to call it to your attention, indicate why it's special, and ask you to mark your calendars now.

Our two parishes are at a turning point. The recently-approved pastoral plan calls us to take both parishes in a new direction, and do it with clear priorities and a redoubled commitment to the Lord and his mission. However, the pastoral plan and its agenda do not simply bear on what we are to do as we go forward. They also fall within the history of our two parishes and take their place among the current realities and circumstances of each. In other words, there is a lot more at issue than a single document can convey. It's ultimately about why we are disciples of the Lord in the first place and what that means for the life and work of our parishes.

I owe it to you to let you know how I understand the meaning, the temptations, the grace, and the call of this moment. Therefore I have decided to address the people of both parishes on Wednesday, September 14 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Isidore Church. I consider this presentation to be among the most important that I have offered in many years. You are all invited, indeed urged, to join us.

During that presentation, I intend to speak concretely and personally about relevant trends and experiences, the better to understand as clearly as possible what we face and the choices that confront us—all of us—at this time. You will leave the meeting with no doubt about how I feel, what I think, and where I stand. You will hear how I intend to fulfill my responsibilities as your pastor, walking shoulder to shoulder with our faithful staff persons and so many others. My fondest prayer is that all of us will go forth as better, more focused, and more committed disciples in mission.

Again: please mark your calendars and plan to join us on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Isidore Church.

Fr. Walter