

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Although summer will not officially arrive for several more weeks, we have definitely entered the summer season. For the next four months, we will experience why the New Orleans climate is dubbed “subtropical.” We are also entering the hurricane season, causing most of us to cast a wary eye on the Gulf of Mexico, on the one hand, and the TV weather news, on the other. During the general intercessions at every Mass, we will be praying that the Lord spare us from a repetition of events of three years ago. At a special service at the end of August, the archdiocese will remember those who died in Hurricane Katrina.

The liturgical color predominating during the coming weeks will be green, a sign of hope, a sign of new growth. The Season of the Year—also known as Ordinary Time—focuses on our growth as Christians. The readings at our weekend Masses focus on the ministry and teaching of our Lord. We see Jesus as he relates to those in need.

These readings give us the opportunity to reflect on our own lives and see how we relate to others in need, whether family members or complete strangers. Ministering to others is always a challenge. Jesus shows us how to reach out in compassion to whoever needs us.

The Sundays in Ordinary Time are not at all ordinary. Their readings give us the chance to grow closer to the Lord by following in his footsteps. Let us pray for one another as we continue our pilgrimage.

In our Lord,  
Donald A. Hawkins, S.J.  
Pastor