



**Rev. Justin Panzer**, District President

# President's Office

## June/July Devotion

**We are the “royal priests of Christ.”** That’s not my own made-up term. Christ calls you that in 1 Peter 2:9. “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood...” Baptism brings us into a salvation relationship with God. We now “share in a heavenly calling” with Him to the priesthood in Baptism.

What does a royal priest of God do? We sacrifice. We pray. We are taught. We worship. We are connected together in a common confession and faith. Our efforts have meaning and value because of Christ. His ultimate sacrifice on the Cross prompts all the sacrifices of the royal priesthood. And we certainly have a great charge in front of us – to be His salt and light in this world. It is the privilege and joy of every believer to faithfully share Christ with others through our own words and deeds. We are eager to be in worship and Bible study and devotion, so that we might be ready to give an answer to those who ask the reason for the hope that lives within us. As long as God allows us to live on this earth, there will be service that is needed, and there will be people who need to be served.

**We take up the mission of the Church – to baptize and teach all nations.** We rejoice in passing on what we have first received from Him. What we do can’t be helped. It is as natural as breathing, as life itself. It is impossible to be a believer, that is, to be in the royal priesthood, and not to be involved in this mission together. It is impossible for us to not look around our neighborhoods and communities and see those who need the same love of God in Christ Jesus that we already possess. We come into contact with these people every day – at work, at school, at the coffee shop. Yes, even within our own families there are people who need to be reconnected with the Savior.

The world needs the message that we possess now more than ever. Let us be those people who invite others to “come and see” Jesus with us in our churches, schools, and preschools. And let us do it joyfully. Rejoice not in anything that you might bring to Christ, but rather rejoice in passing on what you have first received from Him. Filled with the Word and Sacraments of Christ, we as His priests and believers “show forth the excellencies of God.”

Opportunities abound each day to “proclaim, teach, and share” the Savior who has come and who will come again! Don’t be or get distracted by the outside world and other voices telling you to do “other things.” We hear and know the voice of the Shepherd. We follow Him along the way because it is the only way to go. We live in His grace and love, giving thanks to God that we have been set apart to be His people. **We share in His heavenly calling, now and forever!**

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