



*I returned last night from a lovely week in Cancun. (The hurricanes missed Cancun!) I spent a goodly amount of time sitting on my balcony overlooking the Caribbean Sea, reading a book just 'for the fun of it,' something I don't often get a chance to do.*

*It was especially exciting celebrating Mass with my fellow vacationers last Sunday at the resort's chapel-location. You were very much on my mind at that Mass, as we all experience the changes effected by Fr. Boyle's resignation & retirement.*

*You've met your new priests (Frs. Miller & Potter-[Harry's big brother!]) and we've met our new parishioners. As you know, we've been 'swapping' pulpit & altars a lot, while we try to meet our new parishioners and have them meet their new priests. Most likely, this will be our ultimate 'grouping,' once the official parish-mergers begin next October, 2018, though the bishop insists 'nothing is definite' presently. Deacon Vic has been at my side the whole way. We three priests & deacon have formed a bond, giving you an extended clerical team to serve you. We are each very excited and enthusiastic about the new dynamic of our new and extended assignments.*

*At last Sunday's Mass, I felt your presence in my heart. It's 'odd' being away from the parish(es), especially on a weekend. It's kind of hard to explain, but after more than 40 years in the priesthood, something is 'off' when I don't celebrate Mass with 'the People.' I guess the parable about sheep being lost without a shepherd... works two ways.*

*I have returned and am refreshed, ready to tackle an embellished schedule and the challenges that lie ahead. I thank God for this assignment and am very happy to be with you. Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition—the Host!!!*

*Happy to be home—fr.t.*

(By the way, each parish is still independent with separate 'purses.')

(Part II—'I smell God,' next week.)