

May 1, 2011

My brothers and sisters:

Peace of the Risen Lord!

I would like to extend my invitations for the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage to be held at St. Theresa Shrine, Wakaw, on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> (Saturday and Sunday) of June 2011.

It is in this spiritual journey that we follow the *Little Way* of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. Her inspiring words linger on when she said: "*To remain a child before God means to recognize our nothingness, to expect everything from God.*" From her emptiness and hunger, she opened up her heart to be richly nourished by the power of sacraments and prayers, and magnified by her love for the **Word of God**. She once said: "*When I open the Gospels, I breathe the fragrance exalted by the life of Jesus, and I know which way to run.*" As a pilgrim church, the Word of God gives us the sense of belonging and of direction to his Kingdom.

As an impetus to our reflection on the mystery of incarnation, at the beginning of the Advent Season 2010, His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, launched his Apostolic Exhortation on the Word of God: **Verbum Domini**; he appealed to the universal church and said: "*I encourage all the faithful to renew their personal and communal encounter with Christ, the word of life made visible, and to become his heralds, so that the gift of divine life - communion - can spread ever more fully throughout the world.*" Let us hope and pray that this pilgrimage may renew our commitment to God and the Church in the light of the scriptures through the living example of St. Therese.

May God fill your home with the scent of his Grace.

United with you in prayers,

Fr. Roque S. Concepcion  
Parish Priest