November, 2016

A product of both parochial and public school education of the early ‘60s, I had engrained in me a pretty traditional view of the first Thanksgiving. Basically, it was people of two distinct cultures coming together in recognition of the fall harvest, and the role played by the Native American population who were willing and able to assist the Pilgrims in surviving the harsh realities of what for them was a new land. I can’t say for certain what actually took place at the First Thanksgiving on what is now American soil, but I can say unequivocally that I like the concept of the aforementioned version. Specifically, I like the idea of people giving thanks for the abundance that they have in life and for those who have assisted them to succeed.

In my personal life, I have much for which to be thankful (my bountiful harvest of pumpkins as noted in my October article aside). I have a wonderful wife. I am blessed with children and a grandchild who are reflections of my good judgment in selecting a mate. I also have friends who accept me and my many flaws, or at least they pretend they do while I am in their presence. I have a reasonably trustworthy vehicle, and I have a house which my wife makes a home that is both comfortable and comforting. For all that and more, I am genuinely both blessed and thankful.

I also have much to be thankful for on a professional level. I sincerely believe that I have one of the best District Administrator positions there is in the state. I work with a School Board that genuinely cares about the District, the community, and the scholars we serve. I work with a staff of highly competent educators who also happen to be people of the highest quality. Our students come from homes in which education is valued and in which educators are valued, even when we may not see eye to eye. I work for a community that has a legacy of supporting the Public School and the educators who serve her.

Of course there are always challenges and there are days when I go home a bit battered and worse for wear – not too often, mind you, but enough to keep me on my toes. All in all, though, I am so thankful to have the opportunity to serve each of you. It is not an exaggeration to note that it is a privilege and an honor. So, in the spirit of the month, thank you. I hope each of you can find and appreciate the blessings in your own and your family’s lives. November is a great time to reflect upon the bounties we have harvested in life, thereby assuring that we do not take such riches for granted.