

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I must begin by thanking God for the joyful celebrations in our parish for Easter. Actually, all of Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday, was a special time to give thanks and praise to Almighty God for our wonderful faith. I also thank our clergy and staff for all the effort that goes into planning for the services. Also, there are many people who volunteer their time for choir, altar serving, lectoring, distributing communion, decorating or ushering. We priests are in awe at the way our people desire to come together in prayer even as the world wonders if there is any reason to have faith. I believe churchgoers know that faith is a gift from God and God calls us together.

Things are not always perfect even for people of faith. In the past few weeks, some headlines reminded us that Catholics too undergo hardships of different types. The fire at Notre Dame Cathedral and the bombing of the Catholic Churches in Sri Lanka are evidence that we must all deal with difficulties and there are crosses of different kinds to carry. We have to trust that Jesus is with us in the midst of turmoil and he has conquered sin and death.

Let us pray that the Lord will keep us close to himself in the Church. Jesus gave us the Church to teach us and guide us. While not perfect, the Church has the guarantee of the Lord's presence. The Church is Holy because Jesus is the head.

Speaking of the Church, one of our parishioners, Edward Benvenga, is about a month and a half away from ordination as a deacon. The Lord continues to call followers. Ed will be ordained Deacon at St. Patrick's Cathedral on June 15th and will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at the 12:30 Mass here on Sunday, June 16th. Pray for Ed and all those preparing for ordination in the coming months. And give thanks to God for the continued blessings of the sacraments of our faith. Of course, we also pray for all the children preparing to receive Jesus in the Eucharist at their First Holy Communion soon! Blessed Easter!

Sincerely in the Risen Christ,

Monsignor Giandurco