

## A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Perhaps some people are taking a bit of free time this coming week because Summer is winding down quickly. It is often said that Labor Day is the unofficial end of Summer but it really does seem like everything starts up within a few days of Labor Day, if not before.

College students start leaving early in August with some reporting to school in early September. Let's keep our collegians in our prayers in a special way because, among other things, it is a challenge to hold on to the practice of the faith in college. Even for those who attend church regularly with family, the "pull" in college is away from religion. It is unfortunate but it is a fact that many professors have an anti-religion bias, even in "Catholic" colleges. Not all, of course, but many. There are fine examples of professors who are devout Catholics or members of another faith, but they truly seem to be few and far between. Furthermore, the Catholic Church is always the biggest target. Let us also pray that college Chaplains and those who work with them may be effective at inspiring the practice of the faith and that all may be strengthened by the Lord himself. We should feel close to the Church wherever we are.

Certainly we pray for all students at this time of year, and especially the littlest ones starting school for the first time. In Catholic schools, the children will be able to say public prayers during the day, but hopefully all students will be blessed and know they can pray silent prayers throughout the day.

This coming week is also the last week that Father Francis will be with us in the parish. He has been a tremendous help to me and Fathers Wilson and Christian since June. On Labor Day, Father Francis will start some travels in the United States before returning to Ghana. We will miss his gentle and happy demeanor and I know we will extend our gratitude and assure him of our prayers. May he have safe travels and return home safely. Perhaps he will be able to come back to us again.

Blessed days of Summer everyone!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Monsignor Giandurco*