

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Next week, I plan on writing about New York State's Child Victims Act and what it can possibly mean for institutions such as the Catholic Church. Actually, the Catholic Church is the main focus of many law firms at the present time and we will be hearing a great deal about this law and all kinds of repercussions in the coming weeks and months. Just pray that truth and justice will rule the day. It may be difficult to listen to the news about this law but the Church and other institutions have to hear and respond with humility and charity. First and foremost, we all have to do more to protect children and the most vulnerable.

That being said for now, we should take some extra time to think about prayer in these Summer days. Prayer can help us experience God's peace. Last Sunday, we heard the Gospel passage in which the disciple said, "Lord, teach us (how) to pray." The disciples often saw Jesus praying and they most assuredly prayed as well, even with Jesus, but it seems they wanted guidance in being able to pray better. Perhaps Jesus noticed that they let other things, sometimes important things, keep them from prayer. The story Jesus told them reminded them that it is necessary to be persistent. I don't think that means to "nag" the Lord, but to trust that he always hears our prayers and our persistence shows the Lord that we believe he can provide what we need. Again, taking our cue from Jesus himself, we have to remember that God has a plan for each of us and our prayers have to include the intention that God's will be done. That is part of the Our Father, the actual words of the prayer Jesus gave to his disciples and to us, and that, of course, is part of the prayer that Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before he was crucified. He asked that the cup of suffering be taken from him, but Jesus was prepared to accept the Cross for our sake.

We should find ways to spend time in prayer in these warm Summer days. Jesus promised to be with us and help us in every way. No matter what comes our way, we ask the Lord for guidance and strength as we seek to follow his example.

Blessed Summer days everyone!

Sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Giandurco