

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

As I prepare for the talks I will give and the discussions I hope to facilitate in church this Monday at 12:30pm and after the 7:30pm Mass, I am also preparing for this Sunday's homilies. The Gospel this Sunday contains the words, "love your enemies," "pray for those who mistreat you," "forgive and you will be forgiven," and "for the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

Now, this is in no way to lessen the suffering of victims or to excuse the evil at the core of the crisis in the Catholic Church. I believe that those who commit heinous crimes must be held accountable and be punished, but I, along with many others, have often said that some of the quoted lines above are among the most difficult sayings of Jesus. Difficult because, as followers of Jesus, we are supposed to put those words into practice. After all, Jesus himself did those very things he exhorted his followers to do.

I am praying that the sessions I will hold on Monday will help all of us to focus clearly on the problems affecting the Church and the World at this time and will help us to pray for healing, strength and the resolve to do our part to make things better. I have said before that only God can renew our faith and make things better (or new) again. However, we have to allow God's grace to help us to do God's work. As Jesus did, we have to pray that God's will be done. He forgave his persecutors, and he founded our Church. These are important truths for us.

Whether you are able to make one of Monday's talks or not, let everyone of us pray for the Church, that is, for all the people who make up God's Church. (See the prayer elsewhere in this bulletin—especially as the Pope finishes important meetings today.) If I can say it this way, the Gates of Hell often seem to open up close to the Church, but the same Gates of Hell will not prevail against the Church. That is the promise made by Jesus. If we, as individual members of God's Church, seek to do His will and follow the call to be holy, the entire Church herself will be holier, meaning more like God wants us to be. God bless us all.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.