

## A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

You have been hearing that our Parish Mission is coming for some time now, but this weekend you will hear about the Mission from the priest giving the Mission. Fr. John Collins, a Paulist priest from New York, will speak at all the Masses and personally invite everyone to come to the Mission talks this Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday either each morning after the 9:00 am Mass or each evening at 7:30 pm. (The morning and evening talks of each day are meant to be the same). Light refreshments will be available at all the talks. I encourage everyone to attend the Mission and invite someone to come with you. We are privileged to have this prayerful time just before the holiest week of the year. With God's help, the Mission can give us the graces to make the next week, from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, a truly Holy Week. Remember, during Holy Week, beginning with Reconciliation Monday on April 10, there will be additional opportunities to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. We should not be lacking in ways to stay close to the Lord in the coming days and weeks.

You may have heard my homily last Sunday in which I made reference to a survey of Catholics in the Archdiocese of New York about the practice of faith and what most attracts Catholics to the Church. I reported that the answers which most stood out in the survey are community, family time and service to those in need. I also reported that Cardinal Dolan was surprised and somewhat disappointed that other items, like for example, Jesus, faith, salvation and grace were not the reasons cited most often. The Cardinal felt there was something missing if we as Catholics focus less on faith and more on other issues. It is not that those other issues are not important, but as Catholics, we have to think first of the God who saves us and gives us the faith when we think of the Church.

Again, may these coming weeks give us the grace and the strength to seek the Lord and follow Him in the Church and in our every day life.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Monsignor Giandurco*