

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

I am away from the parish for a while but I wrote these notes before I left. There are a few things I ask you to consider in these Summer days.

First of all, the parish has a somewhat urgent need for volunteers, both long-term and short-term commitments.

Our Religious Education program has a need of about a dozen catechists or teachers. We could always use other volunteers as well but we are most in need of teachers. The commitment is sizable because there are 30 classes lasting one hour and fifteen minutes almost every week. Each teacher has to prepare for his or her classes. I am extremely grateful to those who are already catechists and I ask others to prayerfully consider becoming a teacher of religion in our wonderful Religious Education program. Call the Coordinator, Kelly Vardakas, if you have an interest or any questions. This is an extremely important ministry!

A shorter term need for volunteers presents itself with the Yorktown San Gennaro Festival coming up from September 13 to the 17th. More specifically, I am asking for volunteers to help staff the Zeppole Booth at the Festival. Our parish has made Zeppoles (or fried pizza dough with powdered sugar) for the last two years and the tremendous effort has turned into a major fundraiser for our parish. We need help making the Zeppoles, at the cashier and for the clean-up each day. Please call the rectory if you can help even for part of the Festival.

Finally, I simply want to mention again that our parish will be starting the Renewal and Rebuild Capital Campaign required by the Archdiocese. Since we are one of the biggest parishes, our goal is lofty to say the least. Well over two million dollars! It is never easy to run a campaign like this but we will do our best, I'm sure. I will be contacting our larger donors first to build momentum but all of our parishioners will be asked to contribute according to their means. For some, this may not be the time for such a sacrifice but hopefully many will be able to help us reach our goal. The parish will keep 74% of monies donated (after we satisfy the Annual amount for the Cardinal's Appeal). You will be hearing much more about the Campaign in the coming months, but I ask everyone to start thinking about and saving for this effort to help our Parish and our Archdiocese serve the needs of our people. When we finalize a list of projects to be part of the campaign, we will publish the same. Our hope is to try to improve many aspects of parish life.

God bless you in these late Summer days.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.