A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

Once again, there are persons to mourn and victims of terrorism for whom to pray. This time, the terrorists struck close to home in lower Manhattan. Unfortunately, these types of incidents can happen in any place at any time. The aim of terrorism is to make people feel unsafe and afraid wherever they are. Somehow we simply have to hold on to Jesus' own words: "Be not afraid." Jesus knows that sometimes we are afraid because we are human, but we have to trust and try our best.

The attack in Manhattan took place on All Hallow's Eve, or the Vigil of All Saints. On November 2nd we offered Masses in commemoration of All Souls. The point being that the Church always recommends that we pray. We ask the Lord to bless us. We ask the Saints to intercede for us. We beseech God's mercy and forgiveness for us and for those who have died.

In light of terrorism and violence, we should at lease double our efforts at prayer. Ask the Lord to touch the hearts of those who are set on violence. Who really knows what the motives are? It all seems so senseless! Think of the places where adults have used children to detonate bombs in midst of crowds overseas to produce the maximum amount of suffering. In other words, sometimes, adults terrorists are so cowardly that they make children sacrifice themselves to kill others. How awful! How sinful!

In addition to our prayers for all those who suffer, for any reason, and those who have died, perhaps we can think of other ways to offset violence. Giving blood for those who need transfusions comes to mind. Supporting efforts to help those who suffer or mourn is another way. Providing meals for those who grieve, or basic necessities for victims of disasters, for example. (Often monetary donations are the most effective gifts in times of disaster.)

We can do our best in following in the ways of Jesus (trusting and not fearing) by seeking to do all the good we can in His name, with His help. Amen.

Sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Giarduro