

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

Sometimes it is very fitting to write about current events in these notes, and the topics can be wide-ranging. You may recall I wrote about immigration policies a few weeks ago without being too specific. For certain policies, there is understandable debate which takes place and therefore it is difficult to take a stand and recommend that others do the same. With immigration issues, it is necessary for a country to secure its borders but also to welcome immigrants, especially immigrants who are fleeing persecution. How to do both takes wisdom and cooperation and it sometimes seems both of these qualities are lacking these days. We have to pray that God grant guidance to leaders in every country. We should also pray that God will protect those who are vulnerable and in danger.

That last thought leads me to a brief consideration of another hotly debated issue these days, especially in New York State. There is a strong possibility that the State Legislature will take up the issue of Assisted Suicide in the near future. Most people have no idea how rapidly the notion of helping others to end their own life is taking hold. Those who argue for Assisted Suicide feel that a person should be able to order pills that would end one's life at any time. There would be some restrictions but they can easily be gotten around. Medical doctors would simply have to state that a person's diagnosis is terminal and drugs could be provided to end life. There is so much potential for mistakes or abuse. The Church herself wants to protect life and, where there is pain, to lessen suffering. Others may simply want to save tax payer money, and help to end certain lives quickly. There are ways to better understand Catholic teaching, especially on the internet on the USCCB website, but also on flyers in the back of our church. Again, we have to pray that people come to realize what is happening and turn to the Lord for guidance and help. That help is needed for all who seek to do the Lord's will. With God, all things are possible.

Sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Giandurco