

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

One of these days, I will be able to write more about spiritual things, but for now I will write briefly about several things, spiritual and temporal.

This weekend, we welcome Sam Bellafiore, a seminarian from St. Joseph's Seminary, to speak about vocations and the request to support our seminarians in prayer and in next week's second collection.

By the way, in last week's second collection to support the Missions of the Church, we raised over \$8,000.00.

Next weekend, we will also have a speaker at most Masses. Chris Bell has spoken here at St. Patrick's before. He is the co-founder of Good Counsel Homes for expectant mothers in crisis. On Respect Life Sunday, it is fitting for us to remember the call to cherish and protect every human person from conception until natural death. Every human person is precious in God's eyes.

Instead of a collection for Good Counsel Homes, we will undertake a baby bottle campaign. Look-alike Baby Bottles will be distributed after Masses and they can be filled with change, bills or check to assist expectant mothers or new moms who need help. It makes little sense to say we defend life if we aren't willing to help moms and babies in dire need.

As I mentioned last week in these notes, there are so many needs and causes that present themselves for so many people. Once again, Cardinal Dolan and the American Bishops are asking us to somehow assist hurricane victims, this time for Hurricane Irma. It is so sad because now it is difficult even to keep up with named Hurricanes. Since we already have a second collection for our Family Ministry this weekend, we will follow the Cardinal's advice and place a receptacle in the Main Aisle of both churches in case anyone is able to help with a donation. Remember, we can all only do so much. We cannot give what we do not have, but somehow God will help us to help those in need.

God bless everyone, especially those who are suffering.

Sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Giandurco