

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

As I had mentioned in these notes a couple of weeks ago, Fr. Christian is in Nigeria for this month to see his family. (It's a lot warmer in Nigeria than it is here, even on mild days!) We are finally able to welcome a priest to help us for almost three weeks. Fr. Arthur Rojas arrives this weekend and he will be here until the day after Ash Wednesday, which is not that far off. Fr. Rojas is a priest of the Archdiocese of New York and he is in between assignments. We can use his help since I'll be going to Rome for five days after Fr. Christian returns and then Fr. Wilson will be going to see his family for almost a week. We will all be in place for the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

This weekend, we have the start of Catholic Schools Week. A few of students from St. Patrick's School will be speaking at some of the Masses this weekend. Ever since Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese have gone from Parish based to Regional, I have been on the School Board, first in Rockland County and now in Northern Westchester and Putnam. All schools, public and private, have challenges, but I can tell you that our Catholic Schools work hard to educate Children in a well-rounded manner, including the spiritual of course. St. Patrick's here is a wonderful school, thanks to our principal, Mrs. DelVecchio, our teachers and staff, and all of the parish support we provide. Our priests look after the school as best we are able, which is how it should be in a Catholic school. (We are also on hand as much as possible for the CCD program.)

Catholic School tuition seems to put Catholic Schools out of reach for many families, but you should speak with the principal if you have questions or wonder about available assistance. Many families are extremely happy with the education their children receive in Catholic Schools and I can tell you that I truly thank God for all the years I benefited from a strong Catholic environment. My Catholic education helped me in my discernment to become a priest. Catholic Schools help form people for every type of vocation.

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.