

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

These days, at daily Mass, the first reading is from the Old Testament Book of Job and it is a reminder that sometimes everything that can go wrong will go wrong due to sin. In the Book of Job, it was the devil who was responsible for the evil. Under different circumstances, it sounds a lot like what is happening to the Church in these times. From within and without, there seems to be relentless failures, attacks and evil reported. Even if only some of it is current or true, it is making Catholics feel hurt or sad or dejected. Sometimes it hits very close to home, as with Fr. Tom Kreiser in the news now, but we have to ask the Lord to strengthen us and all involved. No one should rush to judgement.

On a related sad note, I don't blame you if you were not edified last week at a Mass at which the special video was shown after the Gospel. The Cardinal asked every parish to show the video in Church. The reaction was much better at Masses at which the video was shown after the Mass ended. (We had no way to show the video in the Stone Church but anyone can find it on the internet at <https://archny.org/news/transparency-accountability-and-action>.) The video contains stark and detailed information as to what the Archdiocese is doing to combat the scourge of sexual abuse involving Church leaders and/or members. The information is needed but it is really not meant for the children. I regret that some people were extremely upset by the fact that the video took the place of the homily and was not child friendly. Moving forward, I assure you, that kind of video will only take place after Mass or at another time outside of Mass.

Sadly, the core of the Gospel message is temporarily being muted by the current need of a message of reassurance that the Church is seeking to make things better and to do only what is good and true always and everywhere. Jesus taught us that and we have to trust in Him and follow in His ways - not the ways of the world.

I have no doubt about the truth of the message of the Gospel. I am saddened by the imperfections of leaders and individuals which lead to sin and scandal. (Actually, we are all imperfect.) Only Jesus can make things better. And He will.

Trust in Him. God bless us all.

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.