

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Easter Sunday is four weeks from today which means there is still some time to live the Lenten season. Perhaps some Lenten days go by and we don't think too much about preparing ourselves for Easter, but hopefully we can remind ourselves of the sacrifices Jesus made for us and we can seek to take His words to heart and follow His way.

This week the Reverend Billy Graham was laid to rest. While not a Catholic, he was a forceful Christian preacher. One of the things I always admired about Billy Graham was that he asked people to go to their Christian Churches of whatever denomination they came from. He simply wanted people to live their Christian Faith.

Another think that struck me about Billy Graham was that he was an admirer of Pope John Paul II. Billy was preaching in the Cathedral of Krakow, Poland by a previous invitation when Cardinal Karol Wojtyla was elected Pope John Paul II . They met a number of times and Graham felt that the Pope was a true evangelist, bringing the Gospel message to so many around the world. After Pope John Paul II's death, Graham was asked if he had any question that the Pope was with God. Graham said "Oh no, there may be a question about my own, but I think he is with the Lord because he believed." Graham also said Pope John Paul II was the most influential voice for morality and peace in the world in the last 100 years.

Christian leaders of different denominations didn't always get along like Pope John Paul II and Rev. Billy Graham did. Very few preached in person to as many people as Pope John Paul II and Rev. Billy Graham. They both touched many lives in Jesus' name.

As Catholics, we believe John Paul II is a Saint, since the Church declared him such. Billy Graham also believed the Pope went to heaven. I have a feeling Pope Saint John Paul II has been praying that Billy Graham be led to heaven as well.

During Lent, let us set out hearts on the things of heaven so that we can all be together there forever.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page, below the typed name "Monsignor Giandurco".