

## A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I've been meaning to write about a certain issue for a while. Now I know the time has come.

Last Sunday, a mom was upset in the Church vestibule, brought to tears. Someone had unkindly "shushed" her and her baby and told them they belong in the Cry Room. As attractive as the Cry Room is now (newly decorated) it is not for everyone with children. I trust that if children are having a real tantrum, parents will go to the vestibule until the tantrum passes - but "usual" movements and noises from children should not be offensive to others. After all, Jesus said "Let the children come to me," and that includes in Church as I understand it. These little ones belong in Church. No one should ask them to leave.

If you see someone upset because someone told them to leave Church, offer comfort if you can, as a number of people did last week, as they were going out of the Church. Some people were upset when they saw what happened and how insensitive it was. I was upset too when I heard of it. Its challenging enough when families have their little ones here. It's more challenging when others are going to try to shame parents or scold them. They should be commended for bringing their little ones to Church.

I would suggest to those who are tempted to "shush" families with little ones in Church, resist that temptation and pray in spite of feeling distracted. Parents-use your best judgement in deciding when it might be time to go to the vestibule for a few minutes.

As I said to the family who was made to feel bad last week, that person should not have done that. It is not worth un-interrupted prayer to tell others to be quiet and embarass them. We should always try to make people feel welcome. Jesus will take care of the rest.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Monsignor Giandurco*