

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

It is not easy to pick up where we left off before all the terrible scandals were in the news about ten or twelve days ago. I'm reprinting the words I spoke at all the Masses last weekend (on another page in this bulletin) because I know some people missed them and because I don't want to have to say them again. I think we all feel numb. It is so difficult to fathom the evil that went on. The holiness of the Church has been diminished.

I did say diminished and not completely taken away because Christ is the head of the Church and he is holy. Tragically, some of the members are hardened sinners. All of us are sinners and in need of God's grace and mercy, but most of us churchgoers at least desire to do God's will. That desire is itself a sign to God that we love him. Some people are just consumed with evil desires. May the Lord forgive them. May God heal those who are hurt.

Many things are worrisome now. Much of the world, and many in the Church, can no longer see the Church as good. So many more people may completely ignore the Church, which was meant to be the way that God leads us to heaven. Many people will walk away from the Church. But where will young and not so young find their examples of living the faith? What will replace the faith for those who walk away? (Careful with this next question.) Can the Lord lead people back? The answer, of course, is yes. God can do all things. He will not abandon us even if we abandon him. He will call us back.

I'm also sad that people will simply ignore all the good that the Church does (and has done) in so many ways. Celebrating the sacraments, feeding the hungry, helping the poor, caring for the sick and dying, etc.

The list of good goes on and on. So too it seems does the list of bad. But God's goodness and mercy endure forever and we have to trust in His promise of new life. Eternal life for those who believe. God protect us all!

Sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Giandurco