

## A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

This is my second attempt at writing this column this week. I hope I can adequately and briefly address two very different issues.

One parishioner has asked me to speak out to raise awareness and take the lead in fighting against injustice to immigrants at the southern border of the U.S. That situation has been all over the news lately. I am hardly the one to take the lead in this national issue but I am praying. I was also asked why we don't pray specifically about this issue in church. Sometimes we do include special prayers. While we cannot include every current issue in our Prayers of the Faithful, I believe we do cover many situations with regular prayers for all those who are sick or suffering in any way, or for a greater respect for every person, born and unborn. The Lord knows who most needs our prayers.

Often such issues take on a partisan or political tone. I want to avoid those things. Some local pastors of other denominations are wondering how and where parishioners can get involved in protests. I believe prayers are better than protests. When I was in Suffern, I was asked what I thought about similar situations (for whatever my opinion is worth). I said people always have to be treated with respect, beginning with the children. I also said countries have a right and a duty to protect their borders. Especially here in the U.S., there should be a legal way to apply for citizenship and enter the country. Finally, refugees should be protected in emergency circumstances. The challenge is how to do all of the above, keeping Jesus' words in mind. The three branches of our government must work it all out.

I switch gears to write a few words about sponsors or godparents for Baptism or Confirmation. There is much confusion about this. Some people think there should be no requirements, but according to Church Law, there are. Talk to a priest in this parish if you have any questions but a godparent must be at least 14 years of age, have received Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation in the Catholic Church and be practicing their faith at weekly Mass. If married, the marriage must be recognized as valid by the Catholic Church. A person should be registered in the parish where he or she lives and attends Mass.

Being a godparent is an important and serious role. A godparent is supposed to be an example of living the Catholic faith. This is not just an honorary title. I will try to include more information in coming bulletins.

In the meantime, let's pray that we try to follow God's ways in all things and that God's will be done. Blessed Summer everyone!

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.