

## A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I usually do not spend that much time away from the parish during the Summer but I am spending more time with parents and family now. I will be in the parish here and there in these days, but I will mostly be in Port Chester, or Rhode Island, over the next ten days. The parish is in good hands with Fr. Wilson, Fr. Christian and Fr. William while I am away. I can always be reached for urgent reasons.

We are blessed to have these great priests here right now. There are parishes in the Archdiocese, around the country and around the world which cannot have Mass sometimes because of a lack of priests. We are actually quite fortunate in the Archdiocese of New York because we have many priests from other parts of the world working or visiting here, performing priestly ministry. We also have religious order priests, like our Legionaire priests, who minister in our parishes.

Of course, our growing problem of the lack of priests is a result of the lack of priestly vocations. Our seminaries are not nearly full and the numbers of priests retiring over the last twenty years has been quite high. In the 1940's and 1950's there were often 50 or more men ordained to the Priesthood each year. When those classes retire, they are "replaced" by classes of five or ten men. Hence the shortage of priests. Thank goodness, many retired priests continue to celebrate Mass in parishes, even if they live in priest retirement homes, like Msgr. Dermot Brennan.

In these difficult times for the Church, please pray that our priests remain holy, healthy and fully committed to doing the Lord's work. The vast majority of priest do exactly that. No one is perfect but Jesus promised to be with the Church always.

Let us also pray for priestly vocations, and while we are praying, lets also pray that women and men will hear the call to religious life. Religious Orders like the Sisters of Life are doing wonders and they are growing. On August 6, a group of young women from our parish will be going to Stamford for the profession of final vows for the Sisters of Life. May that inspire them to continue to pray for vocations.

We have to trust that Jesus will take care of his Church, and we should all be praying that God's will be done in all things.

Blessed August 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.