

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I am writing these notes on July 9th. I am in the office for the day to catch up on things and then head home to be with my parents for the rest of the week. Tomorrow (July 10th) is a pretty remarkable milestone birthday for my mother and I'm fortunate to be able to spend some of my vacation days with my Mom and Dad and then get to see other family as well.

So I returned from Ireland on July 7th after a quick trip. It was my fifth trip to Ireland and it was wonderful as always. They were having a heat wave that is about 15 or 20 degrees cooler than our heat waves! I always go to see my friend, Fr. Tony O'Connor, who is my age but he has had numerous health issues over the years. Twenty four years ago he had a heart transplant, and in the three years since my last visit, he has had two bouts with cancer. However, he is a pastor (parish priest) about ten miles from Waterford and he fulfills his priestly ministry every day.

In general, things are not really going well for the Church in Ireland. Partially due to the terrible scandals that have taken place, attendance has dropped off in a dramatic way. Also, modern life seems to be pulling people away from the practice of the faith. As is the case in many developed countries, many people of the younger generations do not often think of religion or faith. It is somewhat frightening to think of what might take religion's place. In essence, nothing can take the place of faith in Jesus, hence the frightening aspect. I trust the Lord will guide them in his own way.

As best as they can, the Irish dioceses are preparing for a late August visit of Pope Francis to Dublin for the 2018 World Meeting of Families. Together with Pope Francis, we should all be praying for stronger families and stronger faith for everyone all over the world. "Protect all families with your loving care" is the central prayer of all the parishes in Ireland at this time. It should really be the central prayer of all of the parishes in the world...including ours.

God bless us all. Enjoy these summer days!

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.