

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Once again, the tragic anniversary of September 11th approaches. Some of our newest college students were not even born in the year 2001 but it is an anniversary that should always be commemorated. I was teaching at the Seminary in Yonkers at the time and it turned into an eerie day as the priests and seminarians gathered to watch the horror unfold on television as the buildings burned and then collapsed. After Mass that day, the Rector and I went to St. Joseph's Hospital in Yonkers to let them know we had many volunteers ready to give blood for the injured. The hospital told us they would call if they started to receive those who were injured but the call never came. Unfortunately, there were not many injured who survived. It was catastrophic, as we know.

I took several turns at what was called morgue duty at Ground Zero over the next couple of weeks. Talk about eerie. Only the tiniest of human remains were discovered. We priests were there to pray and bless the remains.

At the time, it seemed the world would never recover, but somehow the world goes on. There have always been times of tragedy, some of which has been man-made, throughout history. Yet we believe God sent His Son to make all things new again. Many people perished on 9/11 because some people had their hearts set on destruction. As Catholic Christians, we believe Christ can raise up souls from death and carry them to heaven.

As I said, the world goes on, but there seems to be more fear and anxiety in the world. We are able to go to work or school and resume our normal routine. We are even able to celebrate at times, as with the Feast of San Gennaro. We should also find time to pray, of course. We desire to live in peace and joy yet we always remember the past and pray for God's blessings now and in the future. We trust that the Lord will guide us on the journey that leads to heaven.

Sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Giandurco