



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Two weeks from today, we will welcome back to our parish Bishop John McIntyre, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia. Bishop McIntyre was with us in January to open our Jubilee Year and it's a great honor to have him back to officially "re-open" our Church building after our beautiful renovation. He will celebrate the Noon Mass on October 6 during which our new altar will be blessed and dedicated. Among the many highlights of our renovation project, our new altar certainly serves as a center- piece and with the image of the Pelican and her chicks on the front, I share with you this week, its powerful meaning.

The pelican is one of the oldest and favorite animal motifs of Christian iconography/art. Its significance goes back to a text written by an anonymous Alexandrian author in the second century which says that in order to prevent its chicks from starving **in times of scarcity**, the pelican would pierce its chest with its own beak to feed them with its own blood. According to other legends, if pelican chicks happen to die, the pelican would open its own chest and bring them back to life, spraying them with his own blood. With this in mind, it's easy to see why the early Christians adopted the motif as a symbol of Christ, the Redeemer who gives up His own life to bring his own back from the death of sin, feeding them with His own Body and Blood in the Eucharist. The image is found in the writings of the Saints and Christian writers. St. Epiphanius, St. Basil and St. Peter of Alexandria all quoted talked of the Eucharist and the Pelican. Dante, in his *Paradiso*, refers to Christ as "our Pelican" and even Shakespeare, in his *Hamlet*, through Laertes, refers to the legend of the pelican ("to his good friend thus wide, I'll open my arms / and, like the kind, life-rendering pelican, repast them with my blood"). St. Thomas Aquinas, in his *Adoro te devote*, wrote: "like the tender tales of the Pelican / bathe me, Jesus Lord, in what Thy Bosom ran / Blood that but one drop has the power to win / all the world forgiveness of its world of sin."

Certainly, like Christians in the second century, we too live **in a time of scarcity**. Scarcity in the things that matter most. And so, the image of the pelican giving of itself in time of need is powerful one for our own time. It's an image of Hope and Truth, reminding us of the Eucharist and Christ's love, sacrifice and very self, given each day to us on the altar.

This week, our parish will be assisting once again with Family Promise, providing support to families in need. My thanks to all who give of their time and their very selves in serving this week, you are modern-day "pelicans" and I ask our entire parish to bless you in prayer this week.

Finally, I want to commend to you a special conference on addiction being held at First Baptist Church the weekend of October 18. The drug problem in our community is a real one and unfortunately, it's covered in shame. I know many a family in the parish who suffer with loved ones and the damage of drugs. It's time to break-out of the shame. I encourage you to join me at First Baptist for this important seminar and let's bring light into this darkness which is plaguing the best of us.

Peace,
Fr. Rogers

Additional Renovations at St. Patrick Parish
In addition to the renovations upstairs in Church, be sure to visit our newly improved restrooms with a changing station, our new meeting rooms in the school and the high definition broadcast of our Sunday Masses available downstairs in the Church Basement.
236

Catholic Women's Conference
October 26, 2019
9:00AM-4:30PM
Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown. Join over 1,300 Catholic women for a day of fun, friendship, faith formation and prayer. Visit catholicwomensconference.org