



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! This weekend, we bid farewell to Randy Kraft, our seminarian, as his summer assignment with us concludes. I thank Randy for all that he has done here over these past 10 weeks and most of all for his "YES" to Jesus Christ. While he will be with us on Thursdays throughout the coming school year, his visibility will be decreased as he will be at the seminary on the weekends. Randy, like those seminarians that have proceeded him, has shown himself to be a fine, intelligent and able young man. An upright guy who would make for a good husband and a good father. And yet, his presence here has been a real reminder to us that there is another vocation, the call of being a priest, of being a husband and father in a most unique way to the Bride of Christ which is the Church. This is not something one takes upon himself or something that is forced in any way. Rather, it is discerned and responded to over time, with much prayer, with many competent people and within the conscience of the individual. We have been part of that discernment for Randy and I pray that we will be that for all the young people in our midst, who are called in personal ways to follow the Lord. May we never do anything to discourage the work of God, His Call, within us.

As Randy is sent back to the seminary, this weekend, I recall my being sent to Kennett Square. It was six years ago this weekend that I became your pastor. My mind and heart are still filled with wonder and gratitude at the mysterious way of Almighty God. In fact, after six years, I am even more grateful for God's Goodness, Kindness and Care for me. I have experienced God in so many ways in all of you as each day His Way, His Life, His Plan unfolds here in Kennett Square. I thank you for being that living and faithful body of Jesus, His Church, in the world today.

Scripturally speaking, Year 7s are sabbatical years, the Year of Shemitah. While I do not plan on taking a sabbatical this year, together with our parish leadership, we are planning our future as the Body of Christ continues to grow and change here in Kennett Square. When I arrived here, six years ago, I recall referencing the Victory Brewing Company down the street and said that there is another Victory in town. A Victory that we are all called to, a Victory that can never be undone, a Victory that brings Hope, Healing, and true Happiness. Of course, I was referencing the Victory of Jesus Christ.

My friends, it is His Victory that we are about here: In every baby baptized, in every body buried, in every ministry, in every phone call, in every class, in all things...it is the Victory of Jesus. As we enter this new month, this new time, let us welcome that Victory of Jesus into our lives now so as to be welcomed by Jesus into His Life which is heaven.

Thanks for a terrific six years! I raise the Eucharist this weekend and invoke His Blessing for this new Year!

Peace,

Fr. Rogers