



My Dear Parishioners

Praised Be Jesus Christ! One of the great joys of my priesthood has been to work with seminarians, young men following the call of Christ...giving voice to today's Psalm 40: ***Here, am I Lord; I come to do your will.*** It's been a particular joy to have seminarians here at St. Patrick, some of whom are priests and deacons today: Andrew Auletta, Phong Le, Ryan Nguyen, Randy Kraft and now Augustine Reimers, all have been a blessing to us here in their youthful witness, their "yes" to the Lord Jesus.

Last week, I welcomed Fr. Bartholomew Calvano, a newly ordained Dominican Friar to our parish. He baptized his cousin's son here and celebrated the 10:30AM Mass. His "yes" to Jesus, like those of the seminarians, is a great witness and sign of hope, a beacon of Light in what can be a very dark and twisted world.

This week, I'm grateful for the presence of Fr. David Friel. He serves as Vocation Director of the Archdiocese. Fr. Friel has what I know to be a wonderfully challenging job. Wonderful in its witness, to the joy of the priesthood, the power of Jesus. Challenging in its mission of encouraging families and young men to say "Yes". I know it's a challenging job, because I had that job for five years! And I was often saddened by how many parents ***DISCOURAGE*** their sons from saying "YES" to the Lord. Often that discouragement comes from a fear, ignorance or misplaced concern. But it was always so sad to me, because I know what the support of a parent means and the difference that that makes. In my own experience, my parents never forced but certainly never discouraged my pursuit of God's Will. And I have made a commitment as a priest and pastor to do the same.

No doubt, God wills that some of our sons from our parish, from our parish families to be a priest. And what a blessing that would be, certainly for our parish family but even more for that young man...to receive the courage and support from his own family and his parish family to say "yes" to the Lord. I hope that you will commit along with me to offer that support and encourage our parish sons to consider the priesthood. To "Behold the Lamb of God", so as to echo those very words each day at the altar for future generations who will be in need of hearing those words.

Please pray for more priests, learn about the seminary and encourage our young people to say "yes" to the Lord!

Peace,

Fr. Rogers



LIVING STONES APPEAL  
St. Patrick Connecting Cornerstones Project

**THE THERMOMETER IS RISING...** Thanks to the generosity of our parish family, each week we get closer to our goal of \$1.5 million and our Connecting Cornerstones Project continues to unfold. The Living Stones Appeal continues throughout 2023. Please visit the parish website for more information on how you can participate.

In addition, Father Rogers will continue to share updates via Flocknote. If you are not already receiving our parish emails via Flocknote, please sign up today at [www.flocknote.com/StPats](http://www.flocknote.com/StPats) or send a text to 84576 and enter the message number 31716. Thank you!

