



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! It does not happen too often but each year in late January, I experience the desire to clean-out, throw-away and purge my room(s) of all the needless stuff. Not sure why this happens in January, perhaps it's related to the Christmas clean-up, but I try to take advantage of such desires. And I would encourage you to do the same especially this year. For this year, we find ourselves in what is a very special and unique time.

Right now, from a calendar perspective, we have a full month, 4 weeks before LENT. While it could be tempting to stay in hibernation, wait till Lent begins for the next big spiritual activity/resolution... I wonder if our present time might make our Lent more meaningful. Might we use this time now like the time before the marathon, to limber up, stay loose and ready for the great Marathon of Lent which will begin. I'd suggest that the Saints this week could assist us in that task. This week, we celebrate some great Saints: St. Francis DeSales, the Conversion of St. Paul and St. Thomas Aquinas. Francis DeSales was that gentle, strong Saint whose way of life brought healing and wisdom to the Church. The Conversion of Paul is a loud and hopeful reminder that radical change is not just nice, it's necessary, if we ever hope to arrive in God's Kingdom. And St. Thomas reminds us that an ordered, rational approach to life is not only possible, it makes for harmony and peace.

This week is also the week of Christian Unity and Day of Sanctification of Human Life. My friends, the violence, division, strife and stress inflicted on human individuals – ourselves included – are most real. But so too is GOD, REAL. In fact, God – in Jesus -- is now human. Having celebrated His birth so well, we have an opportunity now to welcome His Life to grow in us, and to simply make His Way of Life our own. What a beautiful time it is to do that – moment-by-moment, day-by-day, choice-by-choice! This in-between time, this time between Christmas and Lent, is a great time be attentive to this welcoming...so that when Lent comes, it's not just the next thing we do, but it's a meaningful thing, it's God-in-us, God-with us doing for a world that could certainly use His action.

Thanks so much for the prayers over the past couple weeks, all went super-well with my surgery. And similarly for Deacon Alan! Continue to pray for all who are sick, especially those in most need of compassion.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

Please note our seminarian Augustine Reimers returns and will be with us for the 4 Thursdays of February. He will share reflections on the book HABITS FOR HOLINESS. A wonderful prep before Lent!

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**LIVING STONES APPEAL**  
St. Patrick Connecting Cornerstones Project

**WE ARE GETTING CLOSER TO OUR GOAL OF \$1.5 MILLION!**  
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