



My Dear Parishioners.

There's an important principle in philosophy which asserts that following: Namely, being proceeds non-being. In other words, prior to all that is absent, dis-ordered or evil, there is presence, order, good. In fact, the very fact that we can speak of the former is evidence of the latter. St. Thomas Aquinas put it this way: **"Good can exist without evil; but evil cannot exist without the good."**

That's something to think about over your morning coffee! But even more, it's something to relish and a reason for great praise. As we see so many manifestations of dis-order, absence and evil, in his definition all over today, it's important to know that all of it in some way is in relationship right order, presence and good. As a parasite cannot exist except in relation with a host, evil cannot exist unless there is a good. So what does this mean for you and me? Quite simply: Know, Love and Grow GOOD.

Let it be clear: Our duty and vocation as Christians is not just to suffer, put up with or combat evil; our vocation, first and foremost, is to steward, care for and love the good. This is the great mission entrusted to us to live. And upon it, we will be judged. How well did we love the good?

Summertime offers us a time to examen that; to take a breather, perhaps a walk on the beach, a time away from the norm to see where we are, how far away we may have drifted from the good and how God is calling us to walk closer to Him at this point in our lives. In light of that, a few notes for this week:

- 1) This week, I'm going on my annual retreat. This is not a mere get-a-way. It's actually an obligation set forth in Canon Law: Canon 276. "All clergy are obliged to go on retreat on a regular basis, as determined by their diocesan bishop." This requirement is set in the larger context of the law, which addresses the general need of the clergy to seek holiness in their lives. It flies in the face of common sense for a priest to work so hard at his parish duties that he has no time to pray or pursue other means of spiritual development for himself! So I'm on retreat this week, a time not merely from the parish but toward God. Pray that that happens.
- 2) As we look around our families and friends, in terms of faith, we may find unbaptized adults; unbaptized infants; baptized non-Catholic Christians, or baptized Catholics in need of Communion and Confirmation. Nowadays the geography of faith is quite diverse. But for all there is a path, a way and His name is JESUS. Well, now is a very fitting time for you to point out that Way to a friend. Perhaps you, yourself, fit one of the above descriptions. I invite you to take a step, to learn more about Catholicism, Divine Revelation, Faith and Reason: That step is the enrolling in the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults. Formerly called the RCIA.

On July 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7PM, there will be an initial gathering of people here at St. Patrick who may be interested in learning more. Share this invite with your friends, come and see! It's a joy to walk with others on the WAY. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested in joining.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

Catholic Women's Conference, Saturday, October 22, 2022

Registration now open! Early sellout expected!

Join Catholic women from the greater Philadelphia area for a day of fun, friendship, faith formation and prayer at the Catholic Women's Conference. The 2022 theme is "Be Not Afraid, Finding Your Freedom in Christ," in which together we will discover the healing and freedom of heart that Jesus Christ desires to give each of us.

National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA.  
Register today at [www.catholicwomensconference.org](http://www.catholicwomensconference.org)

Called to Be Saints-A Retreat for Young Adults

Friday, September 2-Sunday, September 4, 2022

St. Joseph's Hall, Malvern Retreat House

Young adults in their 20s and 30s are invited for a weekend retreat with Fr. Frassati Davis, O.P. and the Sisters of Life on the universal Call to Holiness. The retreat will include Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Praise & Worship, Confession, group discussion, meals & lodging, time for quiet reflection and walking the grounds, a bonfire, holy fellowship and s'mores!

236