



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! As you may have read in the news, Archbishop Perez has re-instated the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. This obligation becomes effective **Sunday, August 15, 2021**. The official announcement can be found on our parish website. In the wake of this announcement, some including me, have

wondered what difference this announcement will make. Words like obligation, authority and commands don't mean as much today, regardless of who gives them: Bishops, Parents or Teachers. All I can say is, we will see. In the meantime, it might do us well to consider and see again the **important difference that obligations do make**. For without them, we would be in big trouble...as our world shows!

The word "obligation" stems from the Latin word "Ligandus" which means binding/attaching. From that word, we get the word ligament which gives us a good idea of how important obligations are. What would the body be without ligaments? Those connective tissues that attach our bones together! How difficult it is to have a torn ligament, how impossible to live well without ligaments. Same is true of the Body of Christ, we need obligations. The root "ligandus" is the same found in the word religion: it's what binds us to God in faith, hope and love.

Needless to say, in considering the root, we begin to see that obligations are good even necessary things. At first they can feel quite binding and restrictive, but in time, they enable great freedom. They are what holds us together. Obligations assist us to move, they get us out of bed in the morning. In doing so, they help husbands become better men, wives become better women. The obligations of daily life give form and shape to who we become. And our obligations to God, especially Sunday Worship, enable us to become holy. Keep this in mind, the next time, you hear the word. Contrary to what we may think, Obligations are good things!

Finally, today marks the World Day for Grandparents and Elderly. Established by Pope Francis in May, this special day highlights the Feast of St Anne and Joachim the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the grandparents of Jesus Christ. The pope established this day because "the Holy Spirit even today stirs up thoughts and words of wisdom in the elderly." He laments that "grandparents are often forgotten," and after a very difficult year, especially for elderly people, he wanted to offer them a day of encouragement, solidarity, and consolation.

Now we have another reason to express love to our grandparents and elderly! There is a plenary indulgence attached to this day. So I encourage you to remember them: Visit, call, or write a letter to your grandparents. If they are deceased, say a prayer for them. They are the silent "ligaments" that hold us together. And our prayer for them can be a great benefit, not only to them but for us.

For more information visit: <http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org/>

Peace,

Fr. Rogers