



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised Be Jesus Christ! The final touches of our Church Renovation Project were completed this week. Namely, the Holy Spirit image in the center of the apse on the ceiling above the altar; and the images of Sts. Brendan and Bridget of Ireland flanked by two adoring angels. These works of art were created by Kennett Square's own, Neilson Carlin whose Academy of Fine Art is just blocks away on Willow Street. Neil's most famous work is that of the Holy Family which he created for the 2015 World Meeting of Family held in Philadelphia. But his work can be found in shrines and cathedrals across the country. In the coming weeks, I plan on sharing more about Neil and his work. But suffice it to say, I am delighted to have his fine work now adorning our beautiful Church of St. Patrick. My thanks to Neil and all our parishioners gave so much of themselves for that particular part of the project which brings our Church renovation to a completion.

While our Church building renovation is now complete, the work of building up the Church continues on and in a certain sense is never completed. This week, we celebrate the continuance of that work in some of our youngest parishioners. Today, they receive Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist and that life of Christ already with them is strengthened, fed and nourished. A word of thanks to all our catechists and parents of our first communicants for continuing to share and support that gift of faith which our little ones have received. May that feeding, nourishing and teaching continue! Day-by-day, Step-by-step, Sunday after Sunday with the grace of the Lord Jesus!

Over the weeks of the pandemic, I've been meeting regularly via Zoom with the pastors of the local area. We've been checking in with one another, supporting each other, hearing the challenges and receiving encouragement in our respective roles. For me personally, this has been one of the graces of the pandemic. The friendship among the pastors of our various churches in Kennett is palpable, even audible. I was delighted that so many of them accepted the invite of Pope Francis for Christian Churches to ring their bells to beg heaven's help in this time. It really was awesome, to hear the Baptist, Presbyterian and Catholic Bells gonging thru town on Wednesdays at noon.

This past Monday, we met again and our un-scripted meeting found us listening, sharing and reflecting about the reality of racism in our culture and more specifically in our own communities. Hearing the stories of our African-American pastors in town was a beautiful moment of grace. I want you to know that that conversation happened and will continue. At this moment of history, we need to have such a conversations. Now is the time for both a corporate and a personal examen of conscience, to repent for any way that we ourselves have contributed to hate and prejudice in our relationships with one another.

The famous song "LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH" is one that most Christian people like to sing. The last line of that song, would be a good line for all of us to think of: "Let it begin with me." That's a powerful line, a beautiful prayer and a challenge for us all. "Let it begin with me." I encourage all to make those 5 words our own and allow God who begins the good work in us, to bring us as His Church to a more perfect fulfillment.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers