



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Two weeks ago, ahead of the 26<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Pope Francis met with various heads of nations, including our own President Joe Biden. Amidst the various headlines of that meeting, all of which were speculative because it was a closed-door meeting, there was one headline that struck me hard. It read as follows “**A Meeting Between the World’s Two Most Powerful Catholics**”. It ran in the Boston Globe, USA Today, Philadelphia Inquirer and perhaps across your eyes as it did mine. I bring it to your attention here because the headline runs counter what the Gospel teaches. Namely, what it means to be a “**powerful Catholic Christian**”. Contrary to the headline, such a descriptive has little to do with the office we hold, but rather how we hold the office that is ours.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus was asked: “Who is the greatest (most powerful) in the Kingdom of Heaven?” His answer was clear and astounding. He did not reference those who held high public office, Caesar or the High Priest. Rather, “Calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, ‘Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.’ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:1-4.) Not unlike today’s Gospel of the poor widow, who gave more than the rest! (Mark 12:38-44).

This teaching of Jesus is so very important for it lies at the heart of the Gospel. And if we get this teaching wrong, like that headline did, we will get it all wrong. God does want us to be great and powerful, but how that happens is key. As we come to the end of a Liturgical Year and are reminded of the Christ’s Second Coming, let’s be about that how. As we live in a world filled with messages and headlines counter to the Gospel, let us stay grounded in what the Gospel actually teaches. The greatest, the most powerful in the Kingdom are often the very opposite of whom our world claims to be. Let us claim Jesus and live well, hold well the Office given to us, being His.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

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#### ST. CHARLES SEMINARY APPEAL

Next week, we welcome back to the parish Randy Kraft. Randy will speak at all the Masses about the Seminary Appeal. Please see

<https://www.stcharlesseminaryappeal.org/> for more information.

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#### THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE

Our Annual Kennett Square Thanksgiving Prayer Service will take place on Sunday, November 20, 2021 at Church of the Advent at 7PM. All are welcome to join us. Please mark your calendars. More information will be forthcoming.