



My Dear Parishioners,

Greetings and Praised be Jesus Christ! As I write this column on Tuesday Morning, I feel very good because I have just done my civic duty -- I Voted! After months of watching and listening, being a spectator to both sides, I finally did my part and it was refreshing to do it: To walk to the polling place, fill out those circles and enter my ballot. Now, regardless of who wins, I can know a certain peace because I did my part.

As small an example as the above experience is, it offers practical wisdom for the Christian Life. For such a life invites and demands that we do our part. Christianity is not a mere knowing, but a doing. It's not a spectator sport, it's an event that demands participation. And you are those active participants. Participants in what? Participants in the Life and Love of Jesus Christ. Having encountered Him in our listening and watching, we respond -- we do our part -- and heed his call upon our lives: extending his life and love thru our lives, day-by-day, choice-by-choice.

This is good wisdom for the week that we just finished. For it was not just Election Week but National Vocation Awareness Week. A week when we were reminded of the Call of God upon us to be Saints and our response to that call. Often times when we hear the word vocation, we think of the visible witness of those men who have "yes" to his call to Priesthood. But in reality, we all have a vocation: the vocation to love.

Next week, we welcome back to St. Patrick's for Sunday Masses, Seminarian Ryan. He will speak at all the Masses about the St. Charles Seminary Appeal. In addition to Ryan, our parish has another seminarian, Br. Vittorio Pesce, CFR. Br. Vittorio is a Kennett Square native, his mom and dad live in the parish, and he is studying to be a Franciscan Priest in New York. Please keep Br. Vittorio, Ryan and all our 72 Philadelphia seminarians in your prayer. I encourage you to hear their stories on the website: www.HEEDTHECALL.org. May God bless them and each one of us.

Finally, a brief word about CHRISTMAS 2020

With Christmas on the horizon, our parish is making plans to provide a ***safe and orderly*** worship experience in light of COVID-19. Given the size of our church and the crowds that accompany Christmas, the challenge is not a small one but we will be ready. More details to come but for now please note the following:

- 1) We will offer 8 Masses over Christmas Eve/Christmas Day.
- 2) All Christmas Eve Masses and the 9AM on Christmas Day will be Livestreamed.
- 3) The obligation to attend Christmas Mass is still lifted.
- 4) Overflow Space will be ready in both the Church Basement and School Building. No one will be turned away.
- 5) For seating in Church, we will require a SIGN-UP for all Masses. This will ensure good order and will be made widely available beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers