



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised Be Jesus Christ! With Labor Day Weekend upon us, it's time to salute all those men and women who make our lives function as they do. The tremendous impact of work on our human experience and the great dignity of those who do the work, the workers. You are remembered in my prayers as we celebrate this weekend. While not a Holyday, come to the 9AM Mass on Monday as we salute workers.

Often times, thanks to Adam and Eve, we interpret work to be one of those four letter bad words. But in truth "work" is a very good and important word, God privileged us with the task of work, having stewardship over His creation. In the work of religion, faith and parish – the work of our parish – there are many workers, but this week...I'd like to highlight two: Dan and Kelly Pin.

Dan and Kelly are not only parishioners but parents of two children (Amelia and Ben). In addition, Kelly is a teacher and Dan is the Director of Youth and Young Adults for the Diocese of Wilmington. Both are now volunteer teachers in our Religious Education Program. That's a lot of work!! When it comes to faith, they understand that ***faith is not just taught, it's caught***. And to that end, here's some good news.

This past summer, our parish sent Kelly to be trained as a Catechist (teacher) in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS), religious ed. program. CGS is a catechetical program for children ages 3-12. It is a reflective-based program of religious formation that helps a child to further develop his/her relationship with God in a developmentally appropriate way. Rooted in Sacred Scripture, the Liturgy, and the educational philosophy of Maria Montessori, it began in 1954 in Rome, Italy.

Sofia Cavalletti, a Scripture scholar, and Gianna Gobbi, a Montessorian, collaborated and began to work with children. Over the next 60 years, they developed materials and curriculum that spoke to the child's religious potential and offered an opportunity for prayer, meditation, and religious development. The Catechesis is an ongoing work that strives to reveal the religious potential of the child and respond to the spiritual needs and qualities of the child. It seeks to help children grow and mature in their faith and their relationship with Christ. The Catechesis is offered in over 37 countries throughout the world and ***it is my hope that we can begin to offer it here at St. Patrick for our young children***. Be on the lookout for more information from myself, Maria Miller and Kelly Pin. I am very grateful to them for their hard work.

Finally, in the area of work and sharing faith, I want to point out a very interesting study conducted recently that indicates the unique role of DAD. Recent data suggests that fathers *very much* contribute to the spiritual future of their children. ***A father can teach their children to stay with the church simply by going to church on a regular basis. The numbers have demonstrated that if dad stays, the children stay. While it is certainly possible for only mom to raise children into a life of lasting faith, studies have shown that the heirloom of religion rests on the father.*** (A Fascinating article: *Kids Stay in Church if Dad Goes to Church* by Mark Haas, August 4, 2022)

So...as the work of our parish begins and continues, I'm taking note of what works and our call to ***work harder and smarter*** for the Glory of God. And it might be good news to all of us! Lord, give us the grace to work more effectively for you!

Peace,

Fr. Rogers



**LABOR DAY MASS**

Mass on Monday, September 5

will be held at 9:00AM

There is no 7:30AM Mass

"There is joy in work. There is no happiness except in the realization that we have accomplished something".

Henry Ford

