

Dear Members of Sacred Heart,

The first thing I did Wednesday morning after celebrating 7:00 Mass and welcoming our wonderful School students back in the pouring rain for another year was to change the background of my computer screen to a beautiful autumn scene – a winding peaceful country road covered with colorful leaves, majestic trees arching over the road forming a natural tunnel of brilliant and glorious foliage. Over this spectacular image in handwriting much better than mine were two words: “Hello September”.

It was September the First and I was so ready for it. That beautiful picture was quickly replaced, however, by scenes of destruction and damage, the awesome force of tornadoes and floods all around us. The normally relaxing “Labor Day Weekend” will be spent with so many people laboring to repair their homes and rebuild their lives. We will hear again and again this weekend that this is the “unofficial end of the summer season”. What a sad, upsetting conclusion to a season that already had more than its share of trouble and tragedy. The prophets, always looking ahead and always looking to God can offer some consolation and comfort. Here is Isaiah:

“Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not!
Here is your God, he comes with vindication;
with divine recompense he comes to save you.”

Let us hold fast to these words as the flood waters crest and recede around us and as we prepare to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of September 11. As these tragic events and memories push the summertime far behind us and keep the autumn, for now, from coming nearer let us remain close to Jesus, who came to bring healing and hope and say with those who first witnessed the pure force of His love:

“He has done all things well.”

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with His love will befriend us.

Father John