

Pastor's note – March 26

Beloved Parishioners,

Today's gospel passage contains the shortest sentence in the whole of the Bible, yet full of meaning and insights: "Jesus wept." Jesus experienced our human emotions. He therefore knows what we go through; we are not alone. He wept at the death of his friend Lazarus, thus expressing love and compassion, which led to the raising of Lazarus from the tomb. Jesus' compassion is real, deep, and renewing.

As disciples of Jesus and as a parish family, we are called to walk together and to show compassion as a community. Such compassion is to be shown, first, towards one another. We are all precious in the eyes of God and valuable to our parish family. Let us therefore appreciate one another as well as encourage one another to move toward the same goal. Second, we are to show compassion towards the needy who are out of our community, whether far or near. Such an opportunity is through the collections that will benefit our most-in-need brethren. A concrete example is when we promptly reacted to the Cardinal's call to donate to the victims of Syria and Turkey. Another way of showing our compassion near to us is by donating to St. Vincent de Paul that serves the needy of the entire Salem community. On the weekends we take up this collection, please consider donating generously so that the poor among us will benefit from our love, compassion and generosity. On many occasions, I referred to St. Vincent de Paul some needy people who came to knock at the door of the rectory and they were helped by this wonderful apostolate. Let us continue to support the poor; they are the Church's priority; they should be our priority.

In my earliest Pastor's Notes, I stressed the need of being united as a community and the necessity of getting involved; this is because, if we want to build our church, if we want to sustain our parish, each and every one of us should feel challenged and get involved. There are various areas we can bring our talents to: choir, altar servers, readers, ushers, prayer groups, adoration, Stations of the Cross, etc. Please, consider belonging to one or more of these volunteer works. Your help is needed.

As we approach the celebrations of the Pascal Mystery during Holy Week and specifically during the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday) may we commit to supporting our parish in whatever way we can so that we may spring forth as a renewed/risen and compassionate people, ready to make sacrifices for the sake of our faith. Thank you for being part of Ste. Anne parish.

Blessings!
Fr. Augustin