



ST. PETER'S PARISH

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion?
... In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." - Lk 14:28, 33



Original St. Peter's Seal

St. Peter's Parish

In Our 192nd Year - October 14, 1832

Poughkeepsie, New York * Mother Church of the Hudson Valley

Parish Office: 171 Salt Point Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-2:00pm

Mailing address: 6 Fr. Cody Plaza, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Parish Website: www.StPetersParishNY.com



Traditional Papal Seal

Parish email: stpppoffice@gmail.com **Phone:** 845-452-8580

Served by

Father Daniel D'Alliessi
Pastor

Clergy Associates

Father Zeverin Emagalit
Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital Chaplain

Father Mario Julian, OFM
Mount Alvernia Director

St. Peter's Convent, 1860

16 Fr. Cody Plaza, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

The Chapels of St. Peter's Parish

Our Lady of the Rosary, 1906
185 Hudson View Drive, Poughkeepsie

Our Lady of the Way, 1903
at the Culinary Institute

Our Lady of the Holy Souls, 1995
at St. Peter's Cemetery

Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, 1965
at St. Peter's School

Administration Building, 1995

Business Hours & Mass Cards
9:00 am-2:00 pm Monday-Friday
171 Salt Point Turnpike
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
(845) 452-8580

Parish Secretary

10:00 am - 2:00 pm Monday-Friday

Parish Bookkeepers
Baptismal & Marriage Certificates
Envelopes & Sponsor Certificates

St. Peter's Cemetery, 1853

171 Salt Point Turnpike
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Mailing Address: 6 Fr. Cody Plaza,
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Office Hours 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Mon.-Fri.
Grave Openings & Sales / Deeds for Graves

(845) 452-8580 ext. 2

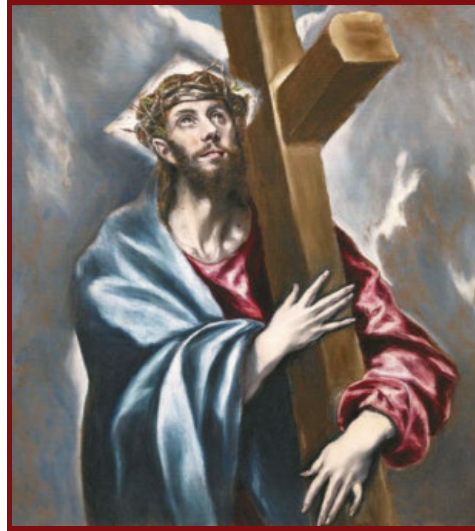
Gates close at 4:30 pm

Religious Education/CCD for Public School Students

1st thru 8th Wed. 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Coordinator: (845) 452-8580 ext. 7

The Catholic Schools of Dutchess County

Holy Trinity Regional School
St. Denis/St. Columba Regional School
St. Mary Parochial School,
St. Martin de Porres Parochial School



Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."

- Lk 14:25-27



Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

SACRAMENTS

Confession: Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45 pm at School Chapel
& by Appointment

Baptism: Most Saturdays 12:30 pm at Our Lady of the
Rosary Chapel

First Holy Communion & Confirmation: Scheduled
through CCD Office

Marriage: Most Saturdays at 12:00 pm or Weekdays,
call at least six months before

Anointing of the Sick: In danger of death - anytime,
otherwise by Appointment

Quinceañera Mass: Most Saturdays at 12:00 pm or
Weekdays, at least six months before

Call (845) 452-8580 to inquire about the above

Mass Schedule

Vigil (Saturday)

Parish Auditorium

4:00 pm

Sunday

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm

Weekday

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

Tuesday 8:30 am

Wednesday 8:30 am

Thursday 8:30 am

Non-First Friday 8:30 am

First Friday 12:00 pm

First Saturday 12:00 pm

Devotions

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

Tuesday - after Mass

St. Anthony of Padua Novena

Wednesday - after Mass

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Novena

First Friday

Eucharistic Exposition & Benediction

11:30 am-12:00 pm

6:00 pm-7:00 pm (October-June)

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

First Saturday Mass

of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

12:00 pm

Holy Day Schedule

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

Check parish website

The Six Holy Days of Obligation

January 1st- The Motherhood of the BVM

40 Days After Easter- Ascension Thursday

August 15th- The Assumption of the BVM

November 1st- All Saints

December 8th- The Immaculate Conception
of the BVM

December 25th- The Nativity of Our Lord

Emergency Weather Masses

For any questions regarding Mass
schedule during hazardous weather
conditions please check the parish website:
www.StPetersParishNY.com

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

First Saturday, Sept. 6 - Vigil Mass - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

12:00 pm Susana Nesheiwat (LIVING)
 3:40 pm Holy Rosary
 4:00 pm Jon, Barry & Maureen Gallagher by a Friend

Sunday, September 7 - The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Charles Darrow by the Darrow Family
 10:30 am Edward P. Cascone by Joan Weston
 12:00 pm People of the Parish

Monday, September 8 - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

No Public Mass

Tuesday, September 9 - St. Peter Claver

8:30 am George & Mary Lynch Marconette,
 Margaret O'Donnel, Joseph Marconette,
 and Marguerite Marconette by the Marconette Fund

Wednesday, September 10 - St. Nemesius

8:30 am Paula DeMarco by Margaret

Thursday, September 11 - St. Protus & St. Hyacinth

8:30 am Eileen & Chloe Sala by Claudia & Richard Collins

Friday, September 12 - Most Holy Name of Mary

8:30 am Fidele Plastini by Philip Papineau

Saturday, September 13 - Vigil Mass - The Exaltation of the Cross

3:40 pm Holy Rosary
 4:00 pm Judith Kowalski by Sharon & Thomas Kowalski

Sunday, September 14 - The Exaltation of the Cross

9:00 am Sylvia Cavallaro-Culhane by Vince & Rose Murphy
 10:30 am Joan Van Vlack by the Family
 12:00 pm People of the Parish

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

Lord Jesus Christ, we call upon your blessed name and we pray for your merciful heart to surround them with love, strength, and courage. Touch them with your power so they may experience healing, comfort and solace!

Please remember in your prayers:

All our former Pastors, Administrators, Assisting Priests, Dean Davis, Jasmine Cappillino, Rosa Armenta, Laura Felice, Father Damian O'Connell, S.J., Diana Gautier, Cornelius Martorano, Sam Fasolino, Mary Ellen Davis, Betty Freeborn, Amy Cordero, Anthony Cordero, Carl Renna, Jeff Lucas, Susan Lachausse, Diane Wood, Bonnie Otillo, Theresa Pierson, Catalina Fonts-Masvidal, Colleen McGarry, Paul Mancarella

PRAY FOR OUR DEAR DEPARTED

Receive in tranquility and peace, O Lord, the souls of your servants who have departed this present life to come to you. Grant them rest and place them in the habitations of light, the abodes of blessed spirits.

Please remember in your prayers:

Lou Murasso, Gregory Felice

PRAY FOR OUR ARMED FORCES

Archbishop William Muhm, CAP - Fr. Peter Pomposello, Army, Sgt. Sophia Della Pietra, National Guard, 1st Lieutenant Jake Della Pietra, Navy, Luke Creeden-Hamilton, Fr. Adolphus Muoghalu, Paul Davis - SSGT US Army Reserve, Joseph H. Colaizzo - Captain US Air Force, Alex Wagner - Security Forces, TSgt Connor Hart - 105th MXS NY ANG, Connor Ruhland- 2nd Lt. US Air Force, Garrett C. Thompson (Navy)

Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are really and truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

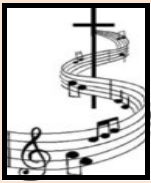


Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins, because of Your just punishments, but most of all because they offend You, my God, Who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more and avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.



The first collection (Regular Parish) for Sunday, August 31, 2025: \$4,919.00
 The second collection (Parish Maintenance) for Sunday, August 31, 2025: \$495.00
 Congratulations to Donna Eastman for winning \$110 in the August 50/50 Raffle!
 Thank you for your continued support of the works of our parish.



HYMNS FOR SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 - 23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Entrance: #022 - Kyrie VIII - "Missa De Angelis" (Instrumental)
Offertory: #038 - Adiós Reina del Cielo (SP)
Communion: #247 - Soul of My Savior
Communion: #233 - Prayer of St. Francis
Recessional: #268 - To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King

DAILY READINGS

September 07 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Wis 9:13-18b/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33
September 08 - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Rom 8:28-30/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
September 09 - St. Peter Claver - Col 2:6-15/Lk 6:12-19
September 10 - St. Nemesius - Col 3:1-11/Lk 6:20-26
September 11 - St. Protus & St. Hyacinth - Col 3:12-17/Lk 6:27-38
September 12 - Most Holy Name of Mary - 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Lk 6:39-42
September 13 - St. John Chrysostom - 1 Tm 1:15-17/Lk 6:43-49



WISDOM OF SAINT AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

REMEMBER, you will be faulted not because you are ignorant against your will but because you neglect to seek out what it is that makes you ignorant.

No one has ever been deprived of the ability to know the importance of finding out what it is damaging to be ignorant of. Neither have they been deprived of the ability to know that they should admit their weakness.

- On Free Will 3, 19

SUPER SUNDAE SUNDAY!

Sunday, September 7
 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

St. Peter's Gymnasium
 Come and Create your own
 ICE CREAM SUNDAE!
 All parishioners are welcome!
 Photo Booth!
IT'S ALL FREE!
 Hope to see you there!

WEDDING BANNS

*Erica Quaedvlieg
 & Sergei Vittone - I*

*Maryetta Henry &
 Phillip Gagliardi - II*



ST. PETER'S CHURCH MEMORIALS. NEVER FORGOTTEN.

In Loving Memory of
Austin E. Short

August 8, 1935 - August 3, 2022

*From your loving wife, Linda A. Short
 and your loving family*

In Loving Memory of
Mary Ann DeWitt

From Lee J., Kristin & Lee

In Loving Memory of
Diana Wilson

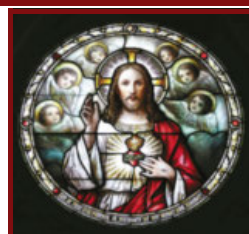
May 8, 1949 - May 10, 2022

From your loving husband, Joe

Remembering Your Birthday
John F. Belch

September 29, 1947 - January 5, 2010

*We love and miss you,
 JoAnne and all your Family*



In Loving Memory of
Charles M. Darrow

Sept. 10, 1944 - Sept. 9, 2024

From his loving family



By the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

A few weeks ago, the Israeli government announced its decision to take control of Gaza City. In recent days, the media have repeatedly reported a massive military mobilization and preparations for an imminent offensive. The same reports indicate that the population of Gaza City, where hundreds of thousands of civilians live — and where our Christian community is located — is to be evacuated and relocated to the south of the Strip. At the time of this statement, evacuation orders were already in place for several neighborhoods in Gaza City. Reports of heavy bombardment continue to be received. There is more destruction and death in a situation that was already dramatic before this operation. It seems that the Israeli government's announcement that "the gates of hell will open" is indeed taking on tragic forms. The experience of past campaigns in Gaza, the declared intentions of the Israeli government with regard to the current operation, and the reports now reaching us from the ground, show that the operation is not just a threat, but a reality that is already in the process of being implemented.

Since the outbreak of the war, the Greek Orthodox compound of Saint Porphyrius and the Holy Family compound have been a refuge for hundreds of civilians. Among them are elderly people, women, and children. In the Latin compound we are hosting since many years people with disabilities, who are under the care of the Sisters Missionaries of Charity. Like other residents of Gaza City, the refugees living in the facilities will have to decide according to their conscience what they will do. Among those who have sought shelter within the walls of the compounds, many are weakened and malnourished due to the hardships of the last months. Leaving Gaza City and trying to flee to the south would be nothing less than a death sentence. For this reason, the clergy and nuns have decided to remain and continue to care for all those who will be in the compounds.

We do not know exactly what will happen on the ground, not only for our community, but for the entire population. We can only repeat what we have already said: There can be no future based on captivity, displacement of Palestinians or revenge. We echo what Pope Leo XIV said a few days ago: "All peoples, even the smallest and weakest, must be respected by the powerful in their identity and rights, especially the right to live in their own lands; and no one can force them into exile." (Address to the group of refugees from Chagos, 23.8.2025).

This is not the right way. There is no reason to justify the deliberate and forcible mass displacement of civilians.

It is time to end this spiral of violence, to put an end to war and to prioritize the common good of the people. There has been enough devastation, in the territories and in people's lives. There is no reason to justify keeping civilians as prisoners and hostages in dramatic conditions. It is now time for the healing of the long-suffering families on all sides.

With equal urgency, we appeal to the international community to act for an end of this senseless and destructive war, and for the return of the missing people and the Israeli hostages.

"In the path of righteousness there is life, in walking its path there is no death" (Proverbs 12,28). Let us pray that all our hearts may be converted, so that we may walk in the paths of justice and life, for Gaza and for the whole Holy Land.

SPECIAL THANKS



Special thanks to Lisa Muellerleile for painting the bench outside the school auditorium.

HYDE PARK FOOD PANTRY

The Hyde Park Food Pantry is very grateful for all the donations our parish has given. Additional items are needed as the colder weather starts: soups, canned stews, pancake mix, instant oatmeal packets, hot chocolate packets. Thank you!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: ROMAN CANON: NOBIS QUOQUE

Official Latin

Nobis quoque peccatōribus fāmulis tuis, de multitudīne miseratiōnum tuārum sperāntibus, partem aliquam, et societātem donāre dignēris, cum tuis sanctis Apóstolis et Martyribus: cum Ioānne, Stéphano, Matthía, Bárnaba, [Ignátio, Alexándro, Marcellíno, Petro, Felicitate, Perpétua, Ágatha, Lúcia, Agnéte, Caecília, Anastásia], et ómnibus Sanctis tuis: intra quorum nos consórtium, non aestimátor mériti, sed véniae, quaesumus, largitor admítte. Per Christum Dóminum nostrum.

Official English

To us, also, your servants, who, though sinners, hope in your abundant mercies, graciously grant some share and fellowship with your holy Apostles and Martyrs: with John the Baptist, Stephen, Matthias, Barnabas, (Ignatius, Alexander, Marcellinus, Peter, Felicity, Perpetua, Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia) and all your Saints; admit us, we beseech you, into their company, not weighing our merits, but granting us your pardon, through Christ our Lord.

Literal English

Also to us sinners, your servants, may You deign to grant from the multitude of Your mercies some share and association with your holy Apostles and Martyrs: with John the Baptist, Stephen, Matthias, Barnabas, (Ignatius, Alexander, Marcellinus, Peter, Felicity, Perpetua, Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia) and all your Saints; into whose fellowship, we beseech you, generous giver, admit us, not as an appraiser of merit, but of forgiveness, through Christ our Lord.

The atmosphere of humility continues in the *Nobis quoque* as the priest prays in the name of the church for all of us, acknowledging we, *famuli*, are sinners. It was an ancient custom for a member of the clergy to refer to himself as “a sinner” in ancient letters. But, the wording of this prayer also echoes the “Be mindful, O Lord, of us sinners your unworthy servants,” of the Anaphora of Saint Mark, a Eucharist Prayer attributed to Saint Peter’s secretary and the Evangelist whom he sent to establish a church in Alexandria, Egypt. As sinners, we can only ask from God for His mercy which is greater than our sins. And we are consoled to believe that every Holy Mass draws from the infinite grace of Christ’s Crucifixion, to apply such graces to us timebound creatures. However, the measure of our reception of grace depends on the condition of our soul at the moment the Mass is offered. Moreover, there are general graces offered to all even non-Christians, there are special graces offered for those who actually participate in the Mass, the priest who offers the Mass receives particulars graces, and the principal grace of the Mass is applied to the Intention for which the Mass is offered.

This petition is addressed to God the Father also asking that he unite us to the Church Triumphant in Heaven. Our God is not stingy or jealous. Our God freely wills that we share in His eternal happiness. The saints already have secured that happiness by cooperating with God’s grace. Thus, the lives of the saints inspire us with models for imitation. But, again, we ask that God who gives us the desire and ability to pray, to take the initiative in uniting us to the saints. Here the Roman Canon agrees with the Coptic Anaphora of Saint Basil of the Church of Alexandria which says, “And may we find fellowship and an inheritance with all the saints who in ages past have been pleasing to you.”

In the *Communicantes*, we called to mind by name the individual Apostles and particular Martyrs. In the *Nobis quoque* we take up that prayer again by naming the saints in general before specifying individuals starting with the Apostle who replaced Judas. It was Saint Peter who just before Pentecost was inspired to call for the election of a replacement for Judas. Peter set the criterion and the means for his election, and Matthias was chosen. He died a martyr and his feast day is May 14. John the Baptist, the greatest man born of woman under the Old Covenant (Matthew 11:11, Luke 7:28), called for repentance and pointed everyone to Christ for which he was beheaded by King Herod. The Church commemorates his martyrdom on August 29. Barnabas means “son of encouragement.” His real name was Joseph. Barnabas had the courage to welcome the former persecutor Paul and introduce him the Church at Antioch. Barnabas then went on missionary journeys with Paul, and later to his native Cyprus and to Milan. He is called an “apostles” in Acts 14:14 since he and Paul were ordained as bishops so that they, in turn, could ordain deacons, priests, and bishops in places they evangelized. He died a martyr at Salamis in Cyprus. His feast day is June 11. The feast of Ignatius is October 17. He was the third bishop of Antioch and wrote a number of letters to churches referring to belief in the Holy Eucharist as Christ’s Body and Blood, devotion to Mary, the hierarchy of the Church, and the founding of the Roman Church “which presides in Charity” by St. Peter. He died in Rome’s Colosseum as a martyr around 110 AD. Pope Alexander I (c.108-118), a Roman citizen born in Rome, is said to have added the words *Qui pridie quam pateretur* to the Roman Canon, introduced the custom of blessing homes, and later died a martyr. His feast day is May 3. Marcellinus and Peter are paired together on a feast day of June 2, because they were martyred at the same time in 304 AD. Marcellinus was a Priest and Peter an Exorcist. Pope Damasus I (305-384) knew of their martyrdom through their executioner who beheaded them in a secluded place under the orders of Severus, but who later converted to the Catholic Faith. Felicity was the mother of seven sons whom she urged to accept martyrdom rather than betray Jesus Christ during the persecution of Marcus Aurelius (r. 161-180). She was martyred five months later on her feast day, November 29. Perpetua was a 22 years old mother of an infant son was arrested and sentenced to death at the area in Carthage. Despite the pleas of her father, a wealthy nobleman, she would not renounce Christ and was torn apart by beasts around 203 AD. Her feast day is March 7, shared with a fellow martyr named Felicity.

Agatha (c. 231–c. 251 AD) was born in Catania, Sicily. When she refused to marry a wealthy pagan, because she had made a vow of virginity to Christ, he denounced her as a Christian. The Roman magistrate tried to humiliate her in a brothel, but the Lord miraculously protected her. She was tortured, had her breasts cut off, and died. Her feast day is February 5. Lucy (c. 283–304 AD) was from Syracuse in Sicily and a devotee of St. Agatha, like her making a vow of virginity to Christ. Her feast day is December 13, which in the late Middle Ages, until Pope Gregory XIII's commission rectified the previous Julian calendar, was the longest night of the year, hence the Italian saying, "*Il giorno di Santa Lucia, il giorno più corto che sia.*" Because she would not renounce Christ, she was martyred by a lustful pagan who ordered that her eyes be gouged out. Agnes of Rome whose feast day is January 21 was only 13 when she was martyred in 304 AD. Despite her youth, she could not be induced with threats to curse Jesus. In fact, miraculous interventions prevented many harms to her until her final witness by beheading. Cecilia a Roman noble woman in her late twenties was forced into an arranged marriage with Valerian. On their wedding night she converted him to Catholicism and he himself sought baptism and vowed to remain a virgin. She had a beautiful voice for singing and to teach the Faith, preparing 400 for baptism. After her husband and brother-in-law were martyred, she condemned to be suffocated by steam. When this failed, the Romans tried to cut off her head but after three strikes they left her to lay dying for three days. Her feast day is November 22. The final saint of the Roman Canon is Anastasia, daughter of a pagan Roman nobleman and a Christian mother, whose feast day is no longer commemorated in the Novus Ordo because it falls on December 25. Chrysogonus of Aquileia, earlier mentioned in the *Communicantes*, was her teacher in the Faith. Anastasia eventually made her way to Sirmium in modern Serbia where she was beheaded for being a Christian in 304 AD.

God is a generous giver (*largitor*) of good gifts. God owes us human beings nothing. He created us, not for His sake, but for our sake, namely, that we might choose to share in His friendship. And even though man lost God's friendship and brought death upon himself, God did not abandon us. Instead, God became one of us to restore us who are willing back to His friendship, and even more, to sonship by partaking in God's own life of grace. Therefore, the prayer ends protesting that we beg God for his merciful forgiveness (*veniae*) not because we deserve it, but because God is so good. Moreover, we ask through Christ our Lord the Son of God who came to save us.

The prayer ends "through Christ our Lord." In the *Novus Ordo Missae* of Advent 1969, a number of changes were made to the Roman Canon, especially with regard to gestures and postures of the priest. Among the wording changes were to make all the *Per Christum (eundum) Dominum nostrum* optional except this one. Also, the word *eundum* was dropped, even though it was used only if Christ were previously mentioned in the same paragraph. This powerful phrase is a reminder that Jesus Christ, our Divine Priest, is our Mediator between us and the Father. All our prayers are effective because they go through Him.



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
488 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

September 7, 2025
Month of Our Lady of Sorrows
Jubilee Year

Dear friends in the Lord:

The Most Reverend Timothy Broglio, Archbishop for the Military Services, USA and president of the United States Catholic Conference has written to the bishops of the country asking for prayers and financial support to alleviate the ongoing tragedy in Gaza. Our Church mourns the terrible suffering of Christians and other innocent victims of violence there and surrounding areas who are struggling to survive, protect their children, and live with dignity in dire conditions.

The Holy Father continues to call for a cease fire and for aid to enter the territory, noting with great sorrow that "Gaza is starving."

Given the extraordinary nature of this crisis, I write today announcing a second collection on Sunday, September 14, the solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Funds from this collection will be sent by the archdiocese to Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Catholic Relief Services to provide humanitarian relief and pastoral support for our affected brothers and sisters. The situation cries out for the assistance of the Catholic community in the United States.

As we often see in these situations, our parishioners instinctively want to be involved in the long-term recovery. I know well of the generosity of our people and their deep care for those in distress.

I am grateful, as always, for your participation.

With prayerful best wishes to you and your families, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,


† Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York

LEARNING TRUE LOVE THROUGH, BEFORE, AND IN CONFRONTATION WITH CHRIST

One must learn to love, and this learning consists in allowing one's love, again and again, to be more and more infused with *caritas* [supernatural charity]. Again and again, we must realize, before Christ, how great and serious love is – how much more profound and more central it is than other professions. It is doubly important to emphasize this fact in a time when people regard nothing but their work as serious and contrast it with amusement and relaxation. Again and again, in our confrontation with Christ, we must enter into the kingdom of his holy love; again and again we must allow our hearts - to be wounded by his love; again and again we must view a person we love in the light of Christ and must treat him with reverence, conscious that, above all, he belongs to Christ.

All this is possible only if we do not allow ourselves to become imprisoned in activism, always living for the next moment and never knowing the present. In a word, all this is possible only if we allot the contemplative attitude its proper role in our lives. Only if we again and again descend into the depths - descend into Christ and to the ultimate reality - can we hope to learn to love truly. Only if we do not take the existence of the person we love, and his love for us, for granted, and only if, in profound gratitude, we regard it always as an undeserved gift, can we attain true love. The person who truly loves is reverent and thankful!

(Excerpt from The role of human love by Dietrich Von Hildebrand. Translated by Jan Van Heurck Franciscan Herald Press, Chicago 1977: p. 40-41.)



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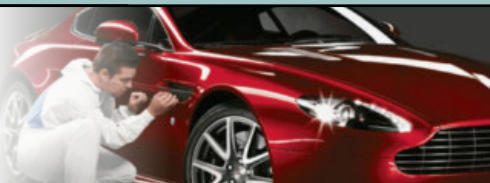
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