

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Recently, two priest friends of mine were named auxiliary bishops of the Archdiocese of New York. I am certain that Msgr. Edmund Whalen and Msgr. Gerardo Colacicco will be wonderful bishops. I have known both of them for many years having studied in Rome at the same time and we had been on the full-time faculty at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers together. To me, their appointment means that the Holy Spirit continues to see to it that the Church is in the hands of good shepherds here on Earth. Of course, there have been issues with bishops and priests over the years, with some having committed serious offenses against the Lord and His people. No one is perfect or free from sin, but in a real sense bishops and priests are held to a higher standard. We have to trust in God's mercy and forgiveness, but we also have to trust that His grace can help us to do His will. The Church also needs to be vigilant. Please join me in praying that our new bishops, together with all bishops and priests, will be true shepherds, after the example of the Good Shepherd, Jesus, himself.

Since we are speaking about priests, we should also think about vocations to the Priesthood. In May 2020, there will be one seminarian ordained a Priest for the Archdiocese of New York. There are more than two million Catholics in the Archdiocese and we have only one man to be ordained next year. I don't even know how many priests have died, retired or otherwise ceased functioning as priests this year, but the number is much, much higher than one. That means that we are not even close to being able to replace priests who need to be replaced in parishes with priests of the Archdiocese of New York. In other words, we continue to rely on Religious Order priests and International priests to cover parish assignments when there are no Archdiocesan priests to do so. Thank God there are still some priests available at the present time.

All of this means we have to continue to pray for an increase in holy vocations to the Priesthood and for God's guidance and protection of His Church. We need the grace of the sacraments of the Church. We need holy priests.

Sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Giandurco