

From the Pastor's Desk 10-18-20

It can be hard to know what part of us we should give to God. The Gospel this Sunday challenges us to recognize what part of us (our resources, heart, mind, allegiance) is due to the larger society, and what part of those resources, and that heart, mind, and allegiance is due to God. We can get focused on being good members of the community (and we should - Christians have always focused on this), but we have to remember that this is not the final authority. Where the civil order is upholding its mandate from God to create a just society then it is in line with God. But where it conflicts with the teachings of God or is unjust - then it is going on its own way and we cannot follow. The hardest thing to do is to know where the line is to be drawn. How fortunate we are as Catholics to have the Church assist us in understanding and negotiating these difficult conditions.

It has been a week of trying to get caught up on things. Sometimes things seem to pile up. I've been plowing through it this week. The wonderful help of the staff is always a consolation to me. We have such a capable team of individuals whom God has called to serve, and I am grateful. The COVID times have caused some disruptions, and have hampered some of our ministry efforts - but we have to work to be sure that we can emerge from this strong and as effective ministers of Jesus Christ in our community.

We continue our series: "Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life" and have a healthy group of individuals attending and others participating online. I am glad to see this and was also happy for the response to the first "Ask the Pastor" series. We will be having another one in the next few weeks. Please send any questions that you want to see addressed. Some of the ones that have come in have been interesting and represent questions about the faith that some people have had for a long time.

Fr. Miguel will be on retreat next week - please remember him in your prayers, as I am sure he will be doing the same. The opportunities that we can take to pull back a bit and spend some time with the Lord (be it a retreat, a day of recollection, or a time of private prayer) can be fruitful. We may feel reluctant to do it at first, but I have found that once I do, I am glad I did. A reminder that we have Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday from 6:00am to 8:00pm at Holy Rosary - please feel free to stop in during that time for a meeting with Jesus. If you would like to make a commitment on a more regular basis you can sign up for a regular slot (there are always one to a few people there so that Jesus, and anyone who stops in, will not be alone).

As we move into the colder time of the year, and as the trees begin to lose their leaves, we look towards the springtime. The brilliant colors that we saw on trees this year remind us that even with this seeming death, a powerful life is still present there, a life waiting to return. May God bless you and your loved ones this week.

Peace,

Fr. Steve