

## **A Letter from the Governing Board of Pastors**

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### **Monsignor Sangermano, Holy Saviour Parish**

#### **A Perspective of Joy**

Many forces, both natural and unnatural, have been threatening our joy these months! As we prepare for the Birth of Our Lord at Christmas, we should recall the “joy of life.” Obviously, this does not mean silliness, nor does it mean a denial of reality in the midst of life’s many challenges. However, it does mean a recognition of the fact that life is basically a beautiful experience that can be filled with a great many satisfactions and joys, if we look for them in the right places and allow ourselves to be touched by them. Many of these joys are not really difficult to attain and are within the grasp of most people. It is a world grown much too complicated that tries to convince us that life’s joys are difficult to attain and out of reach for many.

This invariably causes attitudes of envy, class-warfare and a resentful spirit.

One of the joys, open to most is the joy found in the family unit. This is a part of nature. It is with us as part of our being created in God’s image, with the possibility of mutual love and fulfillment. It does not depend upon any gift or favor from any individual or government. The family is called the basic unit of society because the good of the nation is built upon it. So, first of all, we should acknowledge this great natural source of joy. Even for those who do not marry, the extended family of brothers and sisters and nieces and nephews is a blessing and a support.

The gift of faith also contributes to our joy of life. It helps us to see trials in their perspective. It also maintains in our minds a sense of self-worth which does not depend on any of our talents or on the favor of others but relies on the fact that God has created us out of love and has given each person a great dignity as His son or daughter made in His image. The gift of faith in eternal life is another great consolation when those we love have died or when we ourselves approach death. It is a reminder that the human person is of such dignity that even death does not cause him or her to cease to exist. The idea of Heaven as a place of reward and, yes, Hell as a place of punishment are also salutary and sobering realities that help us to do those things which are not only pleasing to God but which are even good for us in this life.

Let us not allow anyone or anything to rob us of our joy in the consolations of this life! Let us not make life so complicated that we forget the foundations of

peace and fulfillment which are often found very easily for those who are willing to receive them. The other pastors and myself join in wishing all of you a fruitful Advent in preparation for Our Lord's Birth, and we all look forward to seeing you at Mass soon!

Merry Christmas!

Monsignor Sangermano