

FROM FATHER DAVE, PASTOR

Did you hear the story about the bus driver and the priest? Well, it happened that both died on the same day. When they arrived at the pearly gates, they were greeted by Saint Peter. The bus driver was first in line. Saint Peter looked at him and said, "Do you see that mansion on the mountain?" The bus driver nodded affirmatively. Saint Peter said, "That is your home for eternity."

Next in line was the priest who overheard the conversation Saint Peter had with the bus driver. He wondered what mansion he would be living in after all of those long days filled with labor and sacrifice.

Saint Peter greeted the priest and said, "Father, do you see that shack down there in the valley? That is your home for eternity." When the priest heard this, he stumped his foot and said to Saint Peter, "Why does that bus driver get the mansion on the mountain, and I get the shack in the valley?" Saint Peter responded, "Well Father, it is very simple. When the bus driver drove, people prayed. When you preached, people slept."

The moral of this story is that God sees things often differently than we see them. Isaiah points to this reality in today's first reading when he says, "For my thoughts are not our thoughts, nor are your ways my ways says the Lord."

The gospel for today reiterates this sense. Jesus tells a parable in which a landowner hires laborers for the harvest. At the end of the day, the laborers are all paid the same wage even those who started work later in the day. The disparity in compensation engenders envy in those who toiled all day. Once again, God's ways are not our ways.

Why would Jesus tell such a parable? Perhaps the first reason for such a story is to warn the disciples. Jesus wanted his disciples to know that just because they are his first followers, does not entitle them to anything more than others.

The second likely reason for this parable is to show the overwhelming compassion and generosity of God. God is good and his generosity knows no limits. What is more, his generosity should never be a cause for envy but gratitude. Who are we to tell God how to act?

There is an old saying, "If you compare, you will despair." We should not compare our wages or lives to others because this can become a road to sin. Everything we have is God's gift to us. We are all uniquely gifted. For all of this, we need to be people of gratitude. Moreover, we need to recognize that God's ways are not our ways.

Congratulations to our catechists who are commissioned today at the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Saint Alphonsus. Thank you for your commitment to the Catholic faith and for seeking to teach as Jesus did. Thanks to all those families who registered for our religious education program. We wish all of our catechists, families, and students all the best as we begin this new year which will be for now virtual.

Everyone by now should have received electronically or in the mail if you notified us, a copy of our inaugural parish newsletter called "The Flame." It is available online. We will have hard copies available in the vestibule of the parish office.

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 4, at 1:00 p.m.** for the Blessing of Pets in the Saint Alexis Parking lot. This blessing is in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi whose feast day is October 4th.

Finally, with our new emblem, we now have official Saint Aidan stationary. The official parish address is 10090 Old Perry Highway, Wexford, PA 15090. The Saint Alphonsus rectory address is simply the private address for Fr. Will and me. Please do not send parish mail to the Saint Alphonsus site. There can be only one address for our parish.

We have also updated the parish signs in both places to reflect our new identity. Thanks to Carl, our Maintenance Supervisor, and Tom, his assistant, for all of their efforts in this regard.

Have a spectacular Sunday!