

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

### HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

#### SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

*"It is easier for a father to have children than for children to have a real father." (Saint John XXIII)*

Dear Parishioners and Visitors:

I pray that you and your loved ones are doing well as the summer weeks approach. Please know that you are in my prayers during the celebrations of the holy Eucharist for all your travel destinations to be safe and free from Covid-19 illnesses.

June is a month of joy and accomplishment for many families because of graduation. Parents are proud for their children; there is an inner joy in every parent that their self-sacrifices for their children were worth it.

Children from teenage to young adults are excited with their accomplishment. Their graduation either junior high school, high school, or university signifies a new chapter, a new path to follow or a new professional career ahead of their life.

#### Cathedral Chapel School Graduation and CCS Alumni's High School Graduation

Last Friday evening on June 11th, on the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we celebrated the graduation mass and commencement ceremony for our thirty two (32) eight grade students and their families. This is our second graduation class during Covid-19 pandemic where our students studied mostly online.

Since March, we had a hybrid model of teaching where some students with their parents' approval return to in person classroom. The joy on the faces of our students were amazing. I am grateful to the parents of our graduates for all their love and sacrifices, to our faculty and staff for their commitment and creativity, to our graduates for their achievement and their acceptances to the different high school.

Congratulation to some of our CCS alumni graduating from high school especially Gian Ibarrola. I have a niece graduating from Pepperdine Law school and another niece graduating high school.

#### Father's Day Celebration

I am thankful with all the living fathers here on earth especially during these months of the pandemic. Many are frontline and essential workers; they continue to work supporting not only their family but also others such as their loved ones and strangers alike. St. John XXIII (pope) said it best with his quote above. He captures a duty and responsibility of an authentic father.

This is my first year celebrating without my father present. There will be a big void in our family's celebration. Instead of gathering at home, most of us will be at the cemetery. I now join in accompany with all of you and those in the cemetery especially with some of our parishioners whose fathers or husbands died in recent months:

Michael Manion; Charles Day; Angel Bobis, and Wilfred Batara.

#### Celebrations of the Sacrament of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist) during the Month of May

During the month of May, as a parish we joined with Pope Francis praying the holy rosary for an end to the pandemic. I am thankful to members of our parish pastoral leadership for volunteering to pray with me.

For First Holy Communion, we celebrated seven students from our RE program, 22 students from CCS (class of 2021), 9 students from CCS (class of 2019). For confirmation, Bishop Clark confirmed 10 young people who achieve the fullness of the sacrament of initiation. For RCIA, we had one man joined us this year.

I am thankful to Sr. Anna, catechists, and volunteers in RE program, Fran Manion, Cay Chiuco, Chris Carson with the RCIA, Ms. Kipp, Mrs. Valaroso, and Mrs. Anulet with CCS First Communion program.

#### Gratitude to CCSV Parish Staff

As this fiscal year comes to an end, I want to thank our parish staff for all their gifts and support of our parish. First, I am thankful to Karen Hall in our school who will be retiring this month. I wish her and her husband, Stewart, fullness of health and happiness in this stage of their life of love and commitment.

I am grateful to Ms. Kipp (principal), faculty and staff throughout these many weeks of the pandemic. Finally, to Nancy (business manager), Mayela and Maria at the church especially during the last six months after the death of my father, I am thankful for all the work that they do each week especially with mass registrations and in keeping our parishioners safe.

May the Holy Family of God (Joseph, Mary and Jesus) guide you in all your endeavors. Please continue to keep me in your prayers as I pray for you and your family during the celebration of the holy Eucharist.

#### My WORD for the second 6 Months of 2021: VACCINATION (Effectiveness & Equitable)

#### My WORD for the first 6 Months of 2021: FRONTLINE

1 Corinthians 15:58

*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

