

A Pastor's Perspective

January 3, 2021 Bulletin



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, is fond of reminding us, his flock, that we should use some very powerful words on a daily basis within our families and in all our relationships. Very simply, those words are: “Please.” “Thank you.” “I am sorry.” “I forgive you.” Resolving to use these words of Christian compassion and charity make for a great New Year’s resolution to which all of us can commit.

On behalf of Fr. Augustine and Fr. Tony, and in my own name, this week’s column is devoted to saying a heartfelt “Thank you” for the many ways in which your faith is lived through generous service and charity:

- THANK YOU – to all who organized, collected, sorted, and distributed the many, many gifts provided by our parishioners through the Giving Trees at each of our churches;
- THANK YOU – to all who donated gifts that have helped to make Christmas a little brighter for those who are in need, struggling, disadvantaged, elderly, alone, and recovering;
- THANK YOU – to all who volunteered to greet/check-in our parishioners at our churches and sanitize after our many Masses during this holiday season;
- THANK YOU – to all who donated towards poinsettias and other seasonal flowers to help create the spirit of Christmas (a list of donors and remembrances is being prepared);
- THANK YOU – to all who helped with our holy day liturgies, including deacons, sacristans, readers, servers, ministers of Holy Communion, musicians and cantors, parking attendants, and all who decorated our churches for this special holiday season and continue to take care of the many flowers, trees, plants, and other ornamentation – together you made our liturgies festive and faith-filled;
- THANK YOU – to all staff members who work so hard on behalf of our parishioners, and who do it with such great competence, faith and devotion;
- THANK YOU – to all who sent holiday cards, treats, goodies, and gifts to the parish office and rectory – your thoughtfulness is touching and inspiring and makes the season bright; and
- THANK YOU – to all who go about doing good in quiet and humble ways, who are not recognized or thanked, or who are sometimes forgotten (by accident) in such a list.

As we continue to celebrate the mystery of Christmas, may the joy and hope that are expressed by the lights and warmth of the season help us “to grow in strength, wisdom, and grace before God and all humankind” (cf. Luke 2:40, 52) throughout the new year.

“O come, all ye faithful!”

Peace and blessings for a happy, healthy and holy New Year!

Msgr. Andrew