

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

On this Memorial Day weekend, we should most certainly pray for those who have laid down their lives for the sake of their fellow citizens. Think of all the soldiers in all the wars who died to defend our freedom and protect our country. Think of all those who have served in the military over the years. Think of those presently serving at home and abroad.

The truth is, if it weren't for military men and women and first responders, the world and our country would be a much less safe place. It is a well known fact that the world is a dangerous place. Perhaps it can be said that there was hardly ever a time of peace on earth, but I think it is also true that terrorism tries to make the people of the world live in fear. Chances are slim that terror will strike home, but we all know it can.

The recent events in Manchester, England, and even the car run amok in N.Y. Times Square recently, serve to remind us that life on earth can be very short indeed. The youngest terror victim this week was eight years old. No matter what the age is of someone who dies or of someone who is killed, as Catholics we believe that Christ came to bring eternal life. There are some terrible things that happen in life here on earth but the evil tactics of some of the terror groups in our time are among the worst. What we as Christians have to remember is that Jesus conquered sin and death. Terrorists are all about sin and death and hate. Instead, Jesus brings grace and life and love. After all, it was Jesus who said, "Don't be afraid of those who kill the body, but cannot kill the soul" (Mt. 10:28). Words like that don't even make sense to those who are not Catholic or Christian. Let us thank God for our faith, our country, our family and friends. Let us pray for those who have died. Let us never forget, the Lord is our rock and our salvation. God's love will win out over evil.

Sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Giandurco