

## **A Note from the Pastor**

Dear Parishioners,

There are many studies about different topics which take place rather often. Some studies have to do with the work and the make-up of the Catholic Church. One recent study focused on the phenomenon of people leaving the Catholic Church, especially young people. A disturbing fact in this regard is that children aged thirteen or even younger sometimes decide they no longer belong to the Catholic Church. There are different reasons for people to decide they want to stop practicing or believing, and many have to do with family. Often enough, if there are family problems, or lack of church participation, young people will move away from affiliation with the Church. That may simplify things too much, and the true reasons for a drop off in attendance at Mass or adherence to religion may be rather complex. It could well be because the world around us does not value faith and religion and people therefore no longer see faith as important. Whatever the reasons, there is no doubt that some people no longer consider themselves Catholics.

For many of the same reasons, vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life are waning as well. If families do not value faith and sacraments, it is hard to see how young people will feel the call of a religious vocation. It needs to be said also that even in practicing families, one or more young person may drop the practice of the faith. No one understands all the reasons completely, but I am convinced we all need to pray for families, for young people, for the Church and for vocations. Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations and we all need to beg the Lord to send more workers into his vinyard. We all need to ask God to strengthen our faith and the faith of everyone.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Monsignor Giandurco*