

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I want to begin these notes by giving a little more detail about my visits to the World Trade Center site after 9-11-2011. Some people were wondering if I was over-exposed to toxic dust there. My first visit was actually six days after 9/11. Two police officers drove another priest and me through all the security and we blessed the site, as I'm sure every visiting bishop and priest did. Morgue duty for me was then three weeks after that initial visit. I thought more about the timing of things after last week's notes. I was not exposed too much to the dust of those first days. Many priests shared the duty for weeks. It is a fact that only Catholic priests were asked to cover Morgue duty. We continue to pray for those who suffer from that awful day, and for those who were lost.

On a lighter note, Fr. Francis traveled to a few other states after helping here for three months and he returned here on September 10th for two days before returning to Ghana. We submitted this bulletin to print on Wednesday but Fr. Francis was planning on helping make Zeppolis because, yes, he has experience in making Zeppolis! I am extremely grateful for his help and the help of all of our volunteers for the Festival. We will certainly miss Father for his friendly, priestly manner. We promise him our prayers as I'm sure he will pray for us.

Meanwhile, here in the parish, many things have started up again. St. Patrick's School is off to a great start. Religious Education begins this Monday and we pray that the school year will be wonderful for all our students. Thinking and learning about our faith should be something we all try to do. Prayer is important, of course, as well. Fr. Christian and Fr. Wilson have plans to bring High School youth together for a number of activities and the Credo Young Adult group and Bible Study gatherings are already meeting. And the list goes on!

May the Lord help us as we come together for the Mass and in many other ways to live our faith.

Sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Giandurco