

## A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

In a little more than two weeks, Lent will be here. See the schedule for Ash Wednesday in this bulletin and perhaps think about what Lenten practice(s) you might want to adopt. Extra prayers; giving up something; helping the needy; all of the above?

Now I want to switch topics. After the Masses this weekend, members of our Respect Life Ministry will be on site to ask for adult parishioners to sign letters opposing efforts of the NY State Legislators to make Physician Assisted Suicide legal. (See a copy of the letter on the previous page.) We will not use the term “suicide” in announcements at Mass (to protect our young children), but we strongly encourage parishioners to resist the latest push in Albany to go against God’s laws. Doctors take an oath to protect life not to end it. Suicide in any form is the ending of innocent human life which is a transgression of the Fifth Commandment and our Catholic moral teaching.

It goes without saying that no one wants anyone to suffer in terrible pain or agony. There are medicines which can alleviate almost all pain. The intention must never be to end life but rather to make someone comfortable. Dr. Michael Brescia, a long-time parishioner here at St. Patrick’s Yorktown, is one of the foremost medical doctors in the world who assist people who are in terrible pain, often at the end of their earthly life. Dr. Brescia is the founder of the world-renowned Calvary Hospital in the Bronx. According to him, it is never necessary to end a person’s life to greatly reduce their pain and suffering. Calvary Hospital has been serving the terminally ill with dignity according to the teachings of the church for many years. Rosary Hill Home in Hawthorne performs the same type of service to the ill.

Let us ask the Lord to help those who are in pain and terminally ill. Let us also work to respect the laws of God and protect and serve with Christ-like compassion those who need comfort.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.