



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Last week, I began a reflection on the Eucharist and Priesthood, two Divine Gifts entrusted to us that need our prayer and care. Having spoken briefly about the Eucharist, I share a few words this week about the Priesthood. Once again, we begin with God’s beautiful promises both of which are fulfilled in the Eucharist and the Priesthood:

“Behold I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Mt. 28,20).

“I will give you shepherds after My own heart.” (Jer.3, 15).

In the latter promise, God tells us THAT He will give Shepherds but notice that He does not say how many! Growing up in the mid- 20th century in our part of the world, many of us experienced what can only be described as a plethora of priests. Like sugar in Kool-Aid, the priest population was very high and as a Church, we became accustomed to the “Kool-Aid” of many priests. But that high number of priests was not always the case, in fact in the long history of the Church it was the exception. To say that our times have changed is a great understatement. The change is not just in the number of priests today compared to yesterday. But it’s in the whole culture which is becoming more and more hostile.

In a famous 1969 radio interview, Cardinal Ratzinger – the future Pope Benedict XVI – was rather prophetic about our current day. He described a time of Crisis, when **“a Church that has lost much, will emerge; A Church that will have become small and will have to start afresh more or less from the beginning; A Church that will no longer be able to inhabit many of the edifices she built in prosperity. As the number of her adherents diminishes, so she will lose many of her social privileges. In contrast to an earlier age, it will be seen much more like a voluntary society, entered only by free decision. As a small society, it will make much bigger demands on the initiative of her individual members. Undoubtedly it will discover new forms of ministry and will ordain to the priesthood approved Christians who pursue some profession...BUT in all of the changes at which one might guess, the Church will find her essence afresh and with full conviction in that which was always at her center: faith in the triune God, in Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, in the presence of the Spirit until the end of the world.”**

My friends, when it comes to the priesthood, we come to a great Mystery, like the Eucharist. A Gift entrusted to us that demands great care and prayer. As we live in such changing times, 2Things: 1) Pray for Priests and 2) Pray for an Increase of laborers for the harvest. For there is a great harvest of souls and how great it is to labor for that harvest.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

Prayer of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus for Priests

O Jesus, I pray for your faithful and fervent priests; for your unfaithful and tepid priests; for your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for your tempted priests; for your lonely and desolate priests; for your young priests; for your dying priests; for the souls of your priests in purgatory.

But above all, I recommend to you the priests dearest to me: the priest who baptized me; the priests who absolved me from my sins; the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me your Body and Blood in Holy Communion; the priests who taught and instructed me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way, especially (mention names here).

O Jesus, keep them all close to your heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity. Amen.



Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta said *“The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in Heaven, and will help bring about*

everlasting peace on earth.” Come and spend time with Jesus!

Our parish offers Eucharistic Adoration on Mondays from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM and we also celebrate First Fridays with Adoration from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. SAVE THE DATE and join us next FRIDAY, MAY 3 AT 7:00 PM. All are welcome! For questions or more information, please contact Angela Eyre at 484-753-4801 or by email at reachmorepatrick@gmail.com



Next Sunday, May 5, Father Connolly will celebrate the Noon Mass. Afterwards, all are welcome to join us in the St. Joseph Room in celebration of his 50 years of Priesthood. Cards for Father Connolly may be dropped off in the Parish Office.