



My Dear Parishioners,

Greetings and Praised be Jesus Christ! In recent years, human beings have become quite familiar with mission statements. Every organization from our workplaces, recreation places even our worship places, have them. When it comes to Church – and specifically the Catholic Church (which is Church founded by Jesus Christ) – it^s been said that ***the Church does not have a mission, it is mission***. This is very true. For in her very identity the Church is missionary: that is to say oriented outward; not in or for herself but for others. This is the case because God is Trinity: a Communion of Life and Love. And God the Father sent His Son so that all might be saved and come to know the Communion of Life and Love which is God!

And so the Church is Mission. One expression of this is the Witness of Missionaries, men and women throughout history who have gone out to preach and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ in foreign lands. One can easily think of the Missionaries who accepted the call to bring the Gospel to the New World! Next week, we will have one such Missionary with us, Fr. Dennis Callan. Father Callan is a US Citizen and Divine Word Missionary who has served in the foreign lands of Taiwan and South Korea. Next week, he will share with us his work as a Divine Word Missionary and our Mission Co-Op Appeal will go to that good work. No doubt, his foreign witness will find a resonance in our own experience here in the USA.

Believe it or not, we are now the foreign mission land! More and more missionaries are being sent to America to evangelize. But we are not merely the recipients, as Christians, we are the missionaries – sent to live the Gospel in this time! And how different are our times! Different from 50 or even 10 years ago! Thus the need for a ***New Evangelization, New Missionaries***. Those men and women – you and I -- who find new means, expressions and ardor to announce Christ to our familiar yet foreign lands of family, neighbors and friends. Many of whom speak in other languages!

I look forward to welcoming Fr. Callan at our Masses next weekend. And I encourage you to think about Mission ☐ Your Mission, Our Mission to share the Gospel. I close by sharing an update from our parish missionary, Mr. Greg Tandarich. A few weeks ago, Greg gave his witness of discerning a call to work as a FOCUS Missionary on a college campus. That is to say, to evangelize young people in the way of the Lord. After much training with hundreds of other young missionaries and raising funds for the Mission, Greg is now in NEW YORK City working as a FOCUS Missionary at Queens College.

Pray for Greg and all those who serve these new missions in faith, hope and love.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers



Hi! This is Greg Tandarich. I spoke after all the Masses the weekend of July 16th about my mission with FOCUS and the help I needed to go on this mission. I wanted to let you all know that I reached my financial goal and moved into my apartment this past weekend in Queens, NY. I will be having on-campus training at Queens College for our outreach in sharing the faith with the students. The school year starts on August 28th. I wouldn't be here without you! I received about 25 appointments from my talk and I would like to thank all of you for your support through prayers and financial giving. I'm so grateful for all of the conversations I had with those of you I've known for years, and those of you I met for the first time. I genuinely enjoyed getting to know you better and the topics we discussed—you all inspired me in the way you live your faith in your day-to-day lives! It isn't a coincidence we had these conversations - God wanted us to meet in the present moment, He wanted you on this mission with me.

Thank you again! Pray for me, be assured of my prayers for all of you. God Bless!
Greg

☐ *Not that I desire a gift, but I desire the fruit that may abound to your account.* ☐ ~ *Philippians 4:17*

For more information about FOCUS, visit <https://focus.org> or <https://focus.org/missionaries/gregory-tandarich/>