



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Before being burned at the stake for her faith, Joan of Arc – the patroness of France – spoke these words to two priests who stood near to her:

“HOLD THE CROSS HIGHER SO I CAN SEE IT AMIDST THE FLAMES”

This week, we find ourselves 40 days before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. We celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord on Mt. Tabor. And we mark the 79th Anniversary of the Nuclear Bombing of Hiroshima. I believe it's a fitting week to reflect on St. Joan's words which can provide fuel for our prayer, hope for our hearts and direction for our times:

“HOLD THE CROSS HIGHER SO I CAN SEE IT AMIDST THE FLAMES”

That the world is being brought low by sin, confusion, scandal and blasphemy, there is no doubt. In fact, the blasphemy --- seen recently in Joan of Arc's home country – was intentional, done with great pride on the world stage. But that's a stage that sinks very low and it's sinking very quickly. How different the Way of Christ, the Cross of Jesus our Lord! His Way, His Cross stands always high and is the sole/firm foundation for the human heart, the world and everything in it. Everything else is sand and will burn.

In the face of violent times, mockery and evil, we all have different parts to play according to our duties, our vocations and relationships. But “HOLDING THE CROSS HIGHER & SEEING THE CROSS AMIDST THE FLAMES” well, that's what we are all called to do for one another, in love for JESUS. In doing so, we may suffer the loss of friends and family, perhaps income, jobs or prestige. But amidst the flames, smoke, suffering the sadness, we will begin to see – indeed we will find what is most true, beautiful and worthy of all our love: Jesus, Himself! God made visible and seeing Him amidst the Flames, we will find JOY!

I close with the words of another Saint whose Feast is this Saturday, August 9 who herself was gassed and burned to death but who saw Her Savior held High and now lives with Him forever:

“ In the heart of Jesus which was pierced, the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of earth are bound together. Here is for us the source of life.”

Lord help us to Hold the Cross high so we can see your pierced heart and love you.

Peace,

Fr Rogers

St. Patrick Parish has formed a partnership with Bridge of Hope, an organization that engages Christian faith communities in ending family homelessness through neighboring relationships that demonstrate Christ's love. Fellow parishioners Jean & Jim O'Neil, Horace Scherer, Joanna & Pete Sirusas, and Patrick & Lisa Lyons will be neighboring volunteers to a young mother with a two year old boy and a four year old girl. With the support of the Bridge of Hope staff, the St. Patrick Neighboring Volunteer Team will walk alongside this family facing homelessness by offering tangible and emotional support, encouragement, and prayer.

How might you be able to help? This young mother is currently in Family Promise housing but eager to find their own home. If you or someone you know has a two bedroom apartment in this area to rent for about \$1000.00 a month, please contact Jean O'Neil at grandava@gmail.com. We all know housing is scarce but prayers are always answered. Please keep our Bridge of Hope Ministry Team and this Bridge of Hope family in your prayers.



ABBEY FEST-FAITH, MUSIC
& FAMILY FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 14,
2024

Daylesford Abbey in Paoli,
PA

Abbey Fest is celebrating its 10th anniversary! This day-long festival will include food trucks, merchandise tents, kid friendly activities, music, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession and Holy Mass celebrated by Archbishop Nelson J. Perez. This year's music lineup features headliner Matt Maher.

St. Patrick Church has a limited number of FREE tickets to this year's Abbey Fest. To reserve your tickets, contact Jen Keller:

jenkellersp@gmail.com or call 610-444-4364. For more information and full schedule, visit www.theabbeyfest.com

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