



My Dear Parishioners,

Praise Be Jesus Christ! With the Philadelphia Eagles commanding victory in SuperBowl 59, a word this week about eagles. Eagles are near to us not only at the Zoo but along the Conowingo Dam in Darlington, MD. And even, here in our Church! Have you ever noticed the eagle portrayed in our stained glass? (Hint: check out St. John Window, the 4th Window on St. Joseph Side of Church).

Eagles are found in Scripture, both the Old and New Testaments. As creatures of God, they manifest God in their beauty, vision, power and might. Their flight represents freedom and has power to lift the heart and soul to new heights. And how we need that vision, flight and power in our day! In this Jubilee Year of Hope, eagles offer hope and Saints share it. I share with you an abridged article about a soon-to-be declared Saint, Pier Giorgio Frassati, whose motto was *“to the heights”* – His Feast Day is July 4th!

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

To The Heights! by Bishop William Waltersheid, Auxillary Bishop of Pittsburgh

On July 4th, when our minds and hearts are turned to the beginnings of our nation, the Church commemorates a holy individual who has been beatified and will be canonized. Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati is a shining example for our own times. He was born on April 6, 1901 in the northern Italian city of Turin. His family was affluent and cultured. Alfredo, his father, was the founder and director of the liberal Italian newspaper, *La Stampa*, and an agnostic, a member of the Italian Senate and ambassador to Germany at one point. Adelaide, his mother, was a practicing Catholic and a celebrated painter.

From early in his life, Pier Giorgio was deeply spiritual and devoutly Catholic. As a child he sought his spiritual director’s permission to receive Holy Communion daily, a practice that was not common at that time. He became a member of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Apostolate of Prayer. His spiritual life was founded on the two pillars of great devotion to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and a tender devotion to Our Lady. He freely shared his love for Jesus and Mary with his young friends and all who would listen. He was an enthusiastic promoter of the faith.

He had a tremendous love for the poor since he was a small boy. He frequently denied himself money and others things to be able to provide for the poor. At the age of 17, Pier Giorgio joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Through his work in this organization, he was able to channel the great love he received from the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus into the care he poured out upon poor families, orphans of the First World War, single mothers, and all those in need. For him, it was only logical that love received from Christ present in the Holy Eucharist must be shared with his brothers and sisters who were less fortunate. Pier Giorgio was an accomplished athlete, avid swimmer, boatsman, and hiker, his great passion was for mountain climbing. His life motto came from his Alpine adventures. “To the heights!” referred not only to his conquest of peaks in the Alps but also to his spiritual life. His goal in life was to scale the heights of holiness and bring many souls to Christ. He will be canonized August 3, 2025.

An Invitation from Archbishop Pérez

Learn more about a new way forward together for the Catholic Church of Philadelphia



ST. PATRICK PARISH INFORMATION SESSION
SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Your voice and presence are essential as we plan a new way forward!

Archbishop Perez published an important Pastoral Letter on January 5th. This letter outlines his hopes for the Church of Philadelphia over the coming years. He invites each of us to read and reflect upon this letter and to participate in a conversation about it. His letter can be found at www.trustandhope.org.

On Sunday, March 23rd, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, in the St. Joseph Room, St. Patrick Church will host an information session for our parish community on the pastoral planning for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

We would like as much of our St. Patrick community in attendance as possible. **To help us plan accordingly, please register for this event using the QR code found below, visit the parish website, or please email Jen Keller at jenkellersp@gmail.com.**



If you cannot attend our parish session, you are invited and encouraged to attend one of the Archdiocesan sessions being offered throughout Chester County. To sign up for an Archdiocesan session, please visit www.trustandhope.org.