



My Dear Parishioners,

Calendar Year 2002 was a year like none-other for the Church. It was the year that the Sexual Abuse Scandal began to be revealed. Like you, I remember it well: A 9/11 like moment in the Church that brought great shock. And Praise God, great reform, greater accountability and hopefully holiness.

Each year in the course of his pontificate, Pope John Paul II wrote a Holy Thursday Letter to Priests, beautiful letters of encouragement, faith and support. But in the wake of 2002, he changed that. On Holy Thursday 2003, he wrote a Letter not just to priests, a Letter on the Eucharist, addressed to the whole Church: “to bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated men and women and all the lay faithful”.

This week, in the aftermath of the Hamas attack on Israel, another 9/11 moment not just for Israel, but for the world, Pope Francis did something similar. He wrote an Apostolic Exhortation, addressed to the whole Church. What was this letter about? Its title says it all: **“Confidence in the Merciful Love of God: For the 150th Anniversary of the Birth of St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face.”**

Like a Letter on the Eucharist in the time of Scandal, an Exhortation on St. Therese of the Child Jesus in the wake of the beginning of what could be WWII might seem surprising, perhaps even foolish. But is it? ***Might this be the VERY thing we need, the ONE thing that can bring peace, the WITNESS that can change our world?*** I think so! And for that reason, I strongly encourage you to read the Exhortation that Pope Francis addressed to you this week. ***Simply Google: Pope Francis Exhortation 10.15.23.***

There you will find the Wisdom, the Confidence, the Gift of St. Therese’s Little Way. It’s a Way that we need right now for our cold world. In the words of Pope Francis: "At a time of great complexity, St. Therese can help us rediscover the importance of simplicity, the absolute primacy of love, trust and abandonment, and thus move beyond a legalistic or moralistic mindset that would fill the Christian life with rules and regulations and cause the joy of the Gospel to grow cold."

Peace,

Fr. Rogers



ROSARY RALLY 2023

A word of thanks to everyone who prayed with us at the Rosary Rally last Saturday, October 14 to commemorate the 106th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima “Miracle of the Sun” apparition. Despite the rain, we joined our prayers inside the Church together with more than 20,000 other Rosary Rally groups throughout the United States and utilities the POWER OF PRAYER to help bring peace to our world. We hope that you will join us again next year. For now, keep praying the Rosary every day. Our Lady of Fatima, Pray for Us! 236

**HELP FOR THE OXFORD FIRE VICTIMS GIFT CARD DONATION DRIVE
SPONSORED BY THE LADIES OF ST. PATRICK**

Late in the evening of Wednesday, September 13, 2023, a devastating fire broke out in downtown Oxford that destroyed multiple businesses and homes, displacing over 90 people. Multiple local agencies have been working to help find affordable housing for those in need while helping them settle into their new (empty) homes. These families are in great need for continued support to help them rebuild their lives.

As such, the Ladies of St. Patrick will be organizing a **GIFT CARD DONATION DRIVE** during the weekends of **October 28/29** and **November 4/5**. **GIFT CARDS** to the following stores are of most need: **WALMART, GIANT, WAWA, & LANDHOPE FARMS**. If you would like to contribute, please drop off your gift card(s) to one of the Ladies of St. Patrick after all Masses October 28/29 and November 4/5. Cash donations or check payable to Neighborhood Services Center will also be accepted. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need. For questions, contact Marianne Jennings at marianne.jennings8@gmail.com.

