



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised Be Jesus Christ! October is a month filled with some giant saints: Francis of Assisi, Faustina Kowalska and Theresa of Avila to name just three. But among the saints of October, we celebrate two Popes who lived in our own times: Pope John XXIII (October 11) and Pope John Paul II (October 22). This is rather remarkable. For in the long line of Popes, not every Pope is a canonized Saint, in fact some were quite vicious. So to celebrate two Pope Saints in one month, from our own times is noteworthy. What's more, the Popes who fell between them Paul VI and John Paul I were holy as well. Paul VI is a canonized saint and Pope John Paul I is a Blessed! This truly very special.

What might this run of Pope Saints mean for us? It means that in our modern times, we have been blessed with Holy Leaders: that is to say, Popes who lived in deep union with God...for holiness is just that union with God. It's a union evidenced not only in the miracles attributed to them from heaven; but a union that began here on earth in their sacrificial love for others and for God. In short, they lived the faith. And while that is a fair/basic expectation for religious leaders, it does not always happen. Consider the religious leaders of Jesus day. They did not live the faith. In fact in some ways, their external religious appearance cloaked an internal corruption. Remember Jesus calling them "White-washed tombs"! OUCH! Sadly, such corruption, failure of religious leaders to live the faith was not limited to Jesus' day. We have seen it in our own days. And this is precisely why it's important to note and celebrate those religious leaders who have been declared holy, to consider what lied within them.

This week, on Monday, we celebrate one such man, St. John Cardinal Newman. He was religious leader who not only led others, but allowed himself to be led. And it cost him dearly. Cardinal Newman was an Anglican priest who converted to Catholicism. His conversion cost him his status, his friends and entailed much suffering for him. In fact, we celebrate his feast day not the day he died but on the day he converted. For that was a death to him and his writings and prayers manifest it. In them, we hear the turmoil, anxiety, anguish of a man who was living the faith, walking the walk, pressing on – out of himself – for God. I close with a famous prayer of his and I invite you this week, to join me in praying for our religious leaders. On the day he was elected, Pope Francis said "Pray for me." There was more to that request than mere piety. Prayers for our religious leaders are needed. May we be generous in offering them.

A Prayer of Cardinal Newman: **Lead Kindly Light**

Lead, Kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom, Lead me Thou on! The night is dark, and I am far from home, Lead Thou me on! Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see the distant scene; one step is enough for me. I was not ever thus, nor pray'd that Thou shouldst lead me on; I loved to choose and see my path, but now lead Thou me on! I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears, pride ruled my will: remember not past years. So long Your power hath blest me, sure it still will lead me on, o'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till the night is gone; and with the morn those angel faces smile which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

Peace,
Fr. Rogers



PRAY A PUBLIC ROSARY, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023 AT 12:00PM, CORNER OF MEREDITH & CYPRESS STREETS-The Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima "Miracle of the Sun" is coming up on October 13 and St. Patrick's Parish will be holding our annual Rosary Rally as we have been for over 10 years now! You are invited to pray the Rosary with us on Saturday, October 14 (which is the closest Saturday to the actual Feast Day) to commemorate the 106th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima. There is expected to be more than 20,000 other Rosary Rally groups throughout the United States who will be praying the Rosary on this same day/time. Praying the Rosary in public is a beautiful and powerful witness! Our Lady will pour forth graces on the entire world and bring peace. Everyone is welcome. Bring your children and invite your family and friends! FREE Rosaries will be provided.

More information can be found on the America Needs Fatima website at www.americaneedsfatima.org.

For questions, contact Susan at 610-355-6334.

LIVING STONES APPEAL
St. Patrick Connecting Cornerstones Project

LIVING STONES APPEAL: PHASE II ~ MENDING THE GAP
Thank you to all who are part of our Connecting Cornerstones Project and to all those who continue to help us **MEND THE GAP!** As of 10/2/23:
MONEY RAISED: \$1,639,515
COST OF PROJECT: \$1,966,908
MONIES NEEDED: \$327,393
For more information or to make a donation, please visit our website.
www.stpatrickkennettsquare.org/living-stones-appeal/