



My Dear Parishioners,

Greetings and Praised be Jesus Christ! This 3rd week of September marks several notable anniversaries:

1) Today, September 17 marks the ***Birth*day of Fr. Victor Sharrett**, our former pastor. Fr. Sharrett, who passed away in May, would be 84 years old today. Remember him in your prayer, have an extra piece of cake and perhaps a cup of hot tea! Happy Birthday Father!

2) This Tuesday, September 19 marks the ***8th Anniversary of Pope Francis Visit*** to Cuba and the United States. This was his first and only visit to the United States. During that trip, he went to Washington DC, New York and of course Philadelphia. It might be worthwhile to re-visit that time, there is terrific Youtube video of his talk to Congress and his time in Philadelphia.

3) Finally, this Thursday, September 21, the Feast of St. Matthew, marks ***70th Anniversary of Pope Francis Vocational Calling***. I share the below article for your prayerful reading. It is a beautiful story of Mercy and Grace, a story in which we can all can take great heart, trusting God’s Mercy.

Next Sunday afternoon, I will be officially commissioned a Missionary of Mercy at the Cathedral. Know that I will remember each of you there and am grateful for your prayer!

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

In 1953, on the feast of Saint Matthew, the young Jorge Bergoglio (Pope Francis), at the age of 17, experienced, in a very special and intimate way, the loving presence of God in his life. He went to confession and felt his heart touched by the mercy of God. It changed his life. At that moment, he also felt God’s call to the priesthood and religious life as a Jesuit.

In memory of that holy event in his life, Pope Francis chose as his episcopal (and later papal) motto the words “miserando atque eligendo” (“having mercy and choosing”). These words are found in a sentence in a homily by Saint Bede on the calling of Saint Matthew. They are read in the Office of Readings on the Feast of Saint Matthew. Saint Bede wrote: “Jesus therefore sees the tax collector, and since He sees by having mercy and by choosing, He says to him, ‘Follow me.’”

To understand Pope Francis, it is helpful to know about this important event in his life on the Feast of Saint Matthew in 1953. The young Jorge Bergoglio felt the tender gaze of God’s love, His mercy, and his vocation. In an interview, Pope Francis spoke of that event in these words: “In that confession, something very rare happened to me. I don’t know what it was, but it changed my life. I would say that I was caught with my guard down... It was a surprise, the astonishment of an encounter. I realized that God was waiting for me. From that moment, for me, God has been the one who precedes (to guide me)... We want to meet Him, but He meets us first.”

Just as Jesus had summoned Matthew to become His apostle, Jesus called the teenage Jorge Bergoglio to be His emissary. Pope Francis once said: “I believe in my history — which was pierced by God’s look of love, on September 21, the feast of Saint Matthew — He came to meet me and invited me to follow Him.” The gaze of Jesus completely overtook the tax collector and sinner Matthew. It changed his life. It changed Jorge Bergoglio’s life. It changes our life.

Pope Francis says: “Jesus’ gaze always lifts us up. It is a look that always lifts us up... never lets us down... It invites us to get up... to move forward. The gaze makes you feel that He loves you. This gives the courage to follow Him. And “Matthew got up and followed Him’.”

From Todayscatholic.org

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We need you! All Masses are in need of more servers. Come with reverence and a desire to serve; we will train you on the rest!

- **Who:** 5th-12th graders
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- **How:** Attend two 90-minute trainings
- **When:** Tuesday, 9/26 and 10/3 at 6:30p.m.

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- Grow in faith and love for the Mass
- Learn why we do everything in the Mass
- Meet new friends at St. Patrick's

Contact Deacon Alan to sign up or with questions
 deacon.alan.haley@gmail.com
 or 610-836-2955

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

ARE YOU BEING CALLED?

PERMANENT DIACONATE INFORMATION SESSION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY
 VIANNEY AUDITORIUM
 100 EAST WYNNWOOD ROAD
 WYNNWOOD, PA 19096

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