



My Dear Parishioners,

On this Labor Day weekend, we salute all those who make our lives so wonderful: the workers. From those who grow our food to those who build our roads, the hidden labor of many makes our lives what they are. I encourage all of you to join us on Monday for a Special Labor Day Mass, 9AM in Church.

Often times, we affiliate labor with sweat and work. Less often, we affiliate labor with love. But what a beautiful, a powerful affiliation that is. That we can work and labor, for love: that is very powerful and that is exactly our Christian Vocation.

28 years ago this week, September 3, 1995, Philadelphia Eagles Running Back Ricky Watters uttered his famous quote: "FOR WHO, FOR WHAT?" That was his response at a post-game press conference as to why he did not stretch out and catch a pass from Randall Cunningham. Truth be told, he didn't want to take a hit from a Tampa Bay defensive end. Watters answer/question: "For Who, For What?" is a great question for us and how we answer can make all the difference in the world! In all our labor, may we do all For You Lord! All For You! (Below is the story of a Saint who did that. His Feast is Saturday)

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

Peter Claver (1580-1654) devoted great care to slaves just arriving in South America despite the social convention that did not consider them human. For 35 years the Jesuit showed boundless compassion for abandoned people, living out the dictum of the St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, " Look for God in all men and serve them as images of him. "

Claver first encountered Jesuits in Barcelona during his university studies. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1602 and studied philosophy on the island of Majorca at the college of Montesión whose doorkeeper, Brother Alphonsus Rodríguez, was already known for the holiness that would later be recognized by the Church when it canonized him. The saintly brother encouraged the young Jesuit's desire to do something great for God and suggested he consider being a missionary in the New World.

Claver offered himself for the missions, and the provincial sent him to Colombia in 1610. After he finished his study of theology in Bogotá, Claver went to Cartagena on the Caribbean coast where he was ordained a priest in 1616 and where he would spend the rest of his life ministering to slaves who arrived in that port from Africa. Cartagena was one of two Spanish ports designated to receive slaves; an estimated 10,000 of whom passed through the port each year during Claver's time. They were usually in horrible condition after the long voyage. Claver waited on the dock with food he had begged. Accompanied by former slaves who served as interpreters, the Spanish Jesuit then boarded the ships and greeted those on deck before descending into the ship's hold to care for the sick. He cleansed wounds, applied ointment and bandages and spoke about God.

Slaves only remained in Cartagena for a few days, so Claver worked very quickly to prepare people for baptism. Instruction was necessarily limited, and Claver baptized a great number of slaves. He also visited hospitals, one of which cared for lepers, and saw Dutch and English prisoners of war. A plague struck Cartagena in 1650, and eventually took Claver as a victim after he had cared for others afflicted by the disease.

HAPPY LABOR DAY!

Mass on Monday, September 4 will be held at 9:00AM. There will be NO 7:30AM Mass and NO Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, September 4 and will reopen on Tuesday, September 5 with our Regular Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday from 9AM-5PM and Friday from 9AM-3PM.

COME TOGETHER AT ABBEYFEST, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023 AT DAYLESFORD ABBEY IN PAOLI, PA-Gates open at 12:00PM/Opening Prayer at 1:15PM

The Abbeyfest is just TWO WEEKS AWAY and you don't want to miss out on this amazing celebration of our Christian faith through music, praise and worship with your family and friends. The full schedule and music line up can be found at www.theabbeyfest.com

St. Patrick Church has JUST A FEW FREE tickets left to this year's Abbey Fest. To reserve your tickets, contact Jen Keller at jenkellersp@gmail.com or call 610-444-4364.