

THE PASTOR'S POST

PSALM 2

Dear Parish Family,

Blessed are those who put their trust in God!

I write to you today on January 21, The Feast of St. Agnes, the Patroness of our Diocese. Thanks to many I have the chance to be away on an eight day silent retreat. It is an opportunity to be quiet, and hopefully to better be able to listen to what God has to say. I avoid technology and only check messages once a day, just to make sure things are ok.

This morning as I was walking to get a cup of coffee, I read the papers -a few different ones are delivered to the retreat house. I read about the moments and movements leading up to the Inauguration as well as the moments and movements after. Quite a day.

Blessed are those who put their trust in God.

I imagine any time there is a change in leadership in any institution or organization, including the Church, a range of feelings and emotions surface. Yesterday, I had a half day off from the silent retreat and had the chance to spend time with Bishop Murphy, a great way to celebrate the patroness of our diocese. This was definitely a grace of the week to spend time with someone who has helped to form, nurture, and challenge me (and still does). I remember when Bishop Murphy came to our Diocese in 2001 and when he retired and took leave in 2016 and 2017. Many emotions and feelings surfaced.

Blessed are those who put their trust in God.

In reading the papers and trying to absorb what a change in leadership in our country may mean, I could feel many of the same feelings and emotions move me, maybe you too? For

some, there are feelings of victory and new beginnings; for others, regret about choices made. For some, fear and worry predominate; for others perhaps a human confidence or overconfidence. For some, relief that this is the moment we have been waiting for; for others, a disbelief that this is where we find ourselves.

Blessed are those you put their trust in God.

I had some time in silence to bring all that to prayer. Wherever you find yourself on any political spectrum, could we agree a period of uncertainty lies ahead for our country (and always does, for we know nothing is certain)? As I opened my morning in prayer, I started to pray the Office of Readings for the Feast of St. Agnes. The first psalm was Psalm 2. The last line of the psalm:

Blessed are those who put their trust in God.

Can I offer two thoughts as I read and reflected on the various opinions and perspectives of Inauguration Day?

First, our trust must always remain in God alone. Each one of us, starting with me, would be wise to always discern the presence of God in what we say, do, think and envision. Sometimes in our moments of ecstasy and in moments of defeat, we stay on the human level, failing to acknowledge the presence of God who walks with us and should always be the one leading us.

Blessed are those who put their trust in God.

The second consideration comes from another part of Psalm 2. The Psalmist writes: "The Lord said to me: "You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day."



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Let us never forget that **each and everyone of us is the beloved of God**. No exceptions. This calls us to charity and love towards those who agree with us and those who don't (and just because they don't agree with us does not make them our enemies!). Second, we have a moral obligation to be aware of the impact of decisions, actions, words, and statements on each and everyone of our beloved brothers and sisters. Whether our conversation is about fires or freedom, canals or care for the poor, poverty or peace, immigration or insurrections, unborn, or undocumented, criminals or creation, our brothers and sisters are involved. Human beings are involved. The beloved of God, is involved.

We can easily forget that.

Blessed are those who put their trust in God.

So as we pray with this Sunday's Gospel, let us pray that we will embody the words of Isaiah, put forth by Jesus to proclaim liberty, restore sight, and free the oppressed, never on our own but always as a response to God who has anointed us. May we -in spite of various temptations and taunts, perspective and position- find ourselves among the blessed because we have trust in God.

Please pray for me. I promise the same

Fatherhood

Querida familia parroquial,

¡Bienaventurados los que ponen su confianza en Dios!

Les escribo hoy, 21 de enero. Fiesta de Santa Inés, Patrona de nuestra Diócesis.

Gracias a muchos tengo la oportunidad de estar lejos en un retiro silencioso de ocho días. Es una oportunidad para estar en silencio y, con suerte, poder escuchar mejor lo que Dios tiene que decir. Evité la tecnología y solo reviso los mensajes una vez al día, sólo para asegurarme de que todo esté bien.

Esta mañana, mientras caminaba para tomar una taza de café, leí los periódicos. Se entregan algunos diferentes en la casa de retiro. Leí sobre los momentos y movimientos previos a la Inauguración, así como los momentos y movimientos posteriores. Todo un día.

Bienaventurados los que ponen su confianza en Dios.

Me imagino que cada vez que hay un cambio de liderazgo en cualquier institución u organización, incluida la Iglesia, surge una variedad de sentimientos y emociones. Aver tuve medio día libre del retiro de silencio y tuve la oportunidad de pasar tiempo con el obispo Murphy, una excelente manera de celebrar a la patrona de nuestra diócesis. Definitivamente fue una gracia de la semana pasar tiempo con alguien que me ha ayudado a formarme, nutrirme y desafiarme (y todavía lo hace). Recuerdo cuando el Obispo Murphy vino a nuestra Diócesis en 2001 y cuando se jubiló y se despidió en 2016 y 2017. Muchas emociones y sentimientos surgen al leer los periódicos y al tratar de absorber lo que pasó.

.Bienaventurados los que ponen su confianza en Dios.

Un cambio de liderazgo en nuestro país puede significar, yo podría sentir que muchos de los mismos sentimientos y

