

# THE PASTOR'S POST

## MATTHIAS, MONTFORT AND MISSION

Dear Parish Family:

I am writing on the Feast of St. Matthias. The readings from the Mass tell us about the selection of Matthias after the betrayal by and death of Judas Iscariot (see [Acts 1:15-17, 20-26](#)). The scene sounds serene and so faith-filled. New apostles are proposed, everyone prays, and Matthias is the newest apostle. The mission continues. This resonates with a few things happening in our church and parish these days.

### Pope Leo XIV

With the election of a new pope, I re-installed the YouTube app on my iPad so I could see some of the things that were happening. I am sorry I did. Within a day, videos, commentaries, and shows started appearing trying to box the new pope in, presenting rumors about what he was going to do or even had done (he didn't) and so on ... many by people who portray themselves as good Catholics. I love Pope Francis. I appreciated his outward love for the poor, his efforts to create a more inclusive Church that affirmed women, how he sought to create a place for Catholics of many different lifestyles and orientations, his willingness to talk and to listen, and his call to care for the earth challenged me in many ways and affirmed my hopes for the Church. The symbolism of many of his actions and his down to earth homilies and statements often touched me and made me look hard in the mirror. His sickness over the past months and his passing definitely had an impact.

Pope Leo XIV, who I know very little about, will not be Pope Francis. That is OK! What I need to do - and maybe you too - is to trust more in the Holy Spirit, like the disciples did in the reading at Mass today. If I really believe the Holy Spirit is at work, I have to trust that Pope Leo is the pope we need now in this time just as I believed the same about Pope Francis. I have great hope for all he is going to do for the Church and the world. So regardless of what his particular passions in ministry may be, what he wears, where he lives, who he may have spoken to, and so on (these were all topics of YouTube videos that showed up this week), I need to give a chance for the Spirit to work in

Pope Leo, in the Church, and in me (in spite of my many failings!). I hope each one of us can do the same.

### Fr. Nesly

On May 14, 2000, the Feast of St. Matthias, Fr. Nesly was ordained a Roman Catholic priest. As a parish we will celebrate this weekend at the 5 p.m. Mass and with a parish celebration after. These are two small ways we come together to give thanks to God for Fr. Nesly and for the priesthood.

Fr. Nesly is the veteran priest of the house at St. Brigid's. While an area of focus for him is the Haitian community, Fr. Nesly has blessed our parish in many ways in these years while also being a graduate student for a number of those years. His presence in our parish in so many areas and moments, his kindness and gentleness to so many, and that smile and laugh are signs of a real joy of the priesthood.

Fr. Nesly is a Montfort Missionary. (I wrote about St. Louis de Montfort a few weeks ago.) St. Louis went to missionary lands to inspire parishes in their devotion to the Blessed Mother and to the life of the Church. Fr. Nesly has come to this missionary land to bring us closer to Christ and his mother.



We are blessed to have Fr. Nesly's family with us this weekend and we look forward to experiencing even more joy and hope because of his presence here.

### Mission

The readings for the Feast of St. Matthias, the celebration of Fr. Nesly's Ordination Anniversary, the inauguration of a new pope and the readings today all remind us of one thing. We must not lose sight of the Mission - that we who are loved by God never fail to love one another. The Gospel for today's Mass takes place right after the washing of the feet and on the way to the Cross. Jesus never loses sight of the mission. Let's pray the same can be true for you and for me.

Please pray for me. I promise the same.

*Feather*