

THE PASTOR'S POST

HELPING HANDS AND HEARTS BRING HOPE

Dear Parish Family:

This past Friday we celebrated two feasts in the life of the Church that are significant feasts in the Church. I have a connection to both and so do you - not just as objects of devotions but as calls to mission. It is not often that they are celebrated on the same day but perhaps that in itself is a sign.

On the second Friday after Pentecost, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This devotion that began in the 1700s has a hold on many of us. The image of the Sacred Heart is in the north side of the Church. It shows the heart of Jesus surrounded in thorns pouring out of his chest. Jesus gives us his heart out of love....so we might love one another.

This past Friday, June 27th, is the Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. It is no longer on the liturgical calendar but is a significant feast for many, especially our Haitian brothers and sisters. The icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help features a young adult Jesus who appears to be looking toward his future, i.e. passion and death. He does so while holding on to the hand of Mary. Mary holds on to us too today as we look to the future.

Keep these images in mind as we take some steps forward together. Many of you - immigrant and non-immigrant - have spoken to me about your concerns with all that is happening in our world these days, with a special concern for our immigrant brothers and sisters. It is not just about what is happening to some of our brothers and sisters, it is revealing a lot about us, both positive and negative, far beyond the issue of immigration. These days weigh heavy on my heart. It is not just about immigration or one community. Hearts are becoming cold. Hands have become tools of division, and even violence.

With all that is happening these days, I want our hands and hearts to come together, mindful of those

who are particularly struggling and feeling especially vulnerable. So after a meeting with some of our parish leaders, I want to invite you - each person in our parish, not just one community or status - to join together in some of the following ways:

Rosary for Those Who Live in Fear. Each Monday of July (7, 14, 21, and 28) we will gather in the Church (Post Avenue) at 7 p.m. and pray the Rosary for those who live with and in fear and anxiety. In these days and times, I think that would be most of us! So let's come

together in prayer. For those who are not comfortable coming out, we will livestream each Monday night so you can pray with us from home. Each night we'll pray under a different title of Mary. On July 7th, we will turn to Mary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Welcome Summer. On Thursday, July 10th, we will offer a night of fun and friends, food and games for the young people of our parish. For many, there is a significant fear of coming out in these days. For others, they are home alone most of the day. For others, it is better they be here at St. Brigid's than somewhere else. We'll work to have a movie, soccer, games, and some

food! (Yes, we'll need help! Look in the bulletin next week and on social media this week.)

Legal Workshop for Non-Immigrants. I have spent two days this week in courts and in lawyer's offices. It is a frustrating process for many, even this priest. I realize how much I do not understand about legal issues, particularly those faced by immigrants. We do not have a date yet, but I ask when it is announced you consider coming. I think this will be a valuable offering for us to better help and support our brothers and sisters.

July 20. We are working on a procession and prayer march that I hope will bring us together in feet (walking), hands, and hearts. This will involve a sacrifice but one I believe is well, well worth it. More to come next week. For now, save the date and try to



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keep the late morning/early afternoon free.

So I hope we can open our hearts in the weeks ahead in prayer, openness, and service. I hope we can use our hands to serve one another and particularly lift one another up in these days.

Each day, in my last parish, I lit a candle by the Sacred Heart every day I was there. I prayed for a family I cared for and each day asked Jesus to take care of them. I am not totally sure why I did. I just felt like it was where I needed to be. We had prayer cards there and I prayed the prayer below every day. I share it with you - maybe a good prayer for us in these days.

Lord Jesus,

the needs of Your people open Your heart
in love to each of us.

You care for us when we are lost, sympathize with us in
loneliness and comfort us in mourning.

You are closest to us when we are at our weakest.

You love us most when we love ourselves least;

You forgive us most when we forgive ourselves least;

You call us to spread Your love in whatever way we can.

Lord Jesus, Your heart is moved with compassion when

we are suffering,

when we need Your help,

and when we pray for each other.

I ask You to listen to my prayer and grant what I ask,

(make your request silently).

If what I ask is not for my own good

or the good of others, grant me always what is best,

that I may build up Your Kingdom of love in our world.

Amen.

Let's pray that just as Jesus' heart was moved,
our hearts may be moved as well. May this movement
inspire our hands to reach out in service and love of
one another.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, we trust in you.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us.

Saints Peter and Paul, pray for us.

St. Brigid, pray for us.

And, please, say a prayer for me. I promise the same.

Father John

Querida familia parroquial:

El pasado viernes celebramos dos fiestas significativas en la vida de la Iglesia. Yo tengo una conexión con ambas, y ustedes también, no sólo como objetos de devoción, sino como llamadas a la misión. No es frecuente que se celebren el mismo día, pero quizá eso sea en sí mismo una señal.

El segundo viernes después de Pentecostés celebramos la solemnidad del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. Esta devoción, que comenzó en el siglo XVIII, está muy arraigada en muchos de nosotros. La imagen del Sagrado Corazón se encuentra en el lado norte de la Iglesia. Muestra el corazón de

Jesús rodeado de espinas que salen de su pecho. Jesús nos da su corazón por amor para que nos amemos los unos a los otros.

El pasado viernes 27 de junio se celebró la fiesta de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro. Ya no figura en el calendario litúrgico, pero es una fiesta significativa para muchos, especialmente para nuestros hermanos y hermanas haitianos. El icono de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro representa a un joven Jesús adulto que parece mirar hacia su futuro, es decir, la pasión y la muerte. Lo hace agarrado de la mano de María. María nos sostiene también a nosotros hoy, mientras miramos hacia el futuro.

Tengan presentes estas imágenes mientras damos juntos algunos pasos hacia adelante. Muchos de ustedes -inmigrantes y no inmigrantes- me han hablado de su preocupación por todo lo que está ocurriendo en nuestro mundo en estos días, con una preocupación especial por nuestros hermanos y hermanas inmigrantes. No se trata sólo de lo que les está ocurriendo a algunos de nuestros hermanos, sino que está revelando muchas cosas sobre nosotros, tanto positivas como negativas, mucho más allá de la cuestión de la inmigración. Estos días pesan mucho en mi corazón. No se trata sólo de la inmigración o de una comunidad. Los corazones se están enfriando. Las manos se han convertido en herramientas de división e incluso de violencia.

Con todo lo que está ocurriendo estos días, quiero que nuestras manos y nuestros corazones se unan, conscientes de quienes están luchando especialmente y se sienten especialmente vulnerables.