

FROM THE PASTOR
OCTOBER 16, 2022
TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE FLAG IN OUR CHURCHES

Everyone who is aware of the ordering of most Catholic Churches, realizes that the flag of the United States of America is displayed in the Church, as is also the papal flag. This is a laudatory custom and is generally seen only in the United States of America. It is a relatively new custom, dating back to the interwar years of the twentieth century. One notices that the American flag is always on the left, while the flag of the Holy See is on the right. Much as in theatres there is language describing stage right and stage left, so it is in the Church. The left side of the Church is the Gospel side, and the right side of the Church is the Epistle side, The Gospel side is the side of place of importance. That is why the statues of the Virgin Mary are usually on the left side of the Church, while the statue of St. Joseph is on the right side. That is also why in our Church, St. Paul the Apostle is on the left side. He is the patron of the Church. At one time during the tumultuous days of the 1960's and 1970's there was a movement to remove the flags from the Churches. In fact, I was once assigned to a parish where there were no flags in the Church. I centered my energy at that time many years ago to have the flags restored and they were.

As I look at the American flag with pride in the Church, I am always uplifted. I recall the raising of the flag and its lowering every morning and evening during my air force days. All on base would come to attention at such a solemn moment. But I look at the flag I wonder in my heart how much longer will it be there. We Catholics have no enemies, but some consider us enemies. Sadly, more and more this comes from the government. The very principles of Catholic teaching are coming under attack, even physically. We Catholics have been told that we are not welcome in different states which celebrate the murder of the innocents as though it were a sacrament. Will the government one day no longer allow Catholics the freedom of the flag and of all citizens?

The next time you see the flag in Church, pray for our beloved nation. May the darkness which surrounds us never conquer her, but may our beloved flag ever wave as a sign of freedom, liberty, and justice. God bless America.

Please be aware that attacks upon Catholic Churches are increasing everywhere in the world and even in our own country. We must be ever confident in God, but also vigilant.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The parish is ever grateful to our Knights of Columbus and to the Squires. They will attend the 10.30 Mass today and will have the installation of officers in the lower hall after mass. The Knights and their families are invited to the brunch afterward.

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF MARY MOTHER OF THE EUCHARIST

We all know the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. In their short time here on Long Island they have become great friends to St. Paul. Please see elsewhere in the bulletin the information about the Open House at their convent to be held Sunday, October 23rd. Please make every effort to attend and support the Sisters.

*In Jesus and Mary,
Monsignor James F. Pereda*