

FROM THE PASTOR
SEPTEMBER 5, 2021
TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

LABOR DAY: The holiday we keep this weekend marks the end of the summer. Of course, we all realize, the summer will continue until the Autumnal Equinox on September 21st, but nonetheless, this weekend marks the end of the summer season, as the children return to school, and the vacation season comes to an end. Last summer was a very difficult one because we were still in the throes of the worldwide pandemic. Although things are returning to normal, we must still be aware of our complete dependence upon God and our need for his mercy. We are not out of the woods yet.

On Labor Day we recall the dignity of human work. We must remember that work is not a punishment, but rather a gift. Even before the Fall of the human race, we read in the Book of Genesis how God created Adam and Eve to till the soil. They were blessed with work. When we do our work for God's glory then all work becomes the Work of God.

It has been written previously in this column that sadly the world wide pandemic seems not to have had any spiritual impact upon many. I received a letter this week from a parishioner who seems to express beautifully what should be in all our souls during these trying times. She wrote" ...little did I know the best was yet to come – and my heart could even be fuller. I've never stopped thanking God everyday for his blessings." When we begin to feel sorry for ourselves or are tempted to complain, thank God that we are not falling from military aircraft above Kabul. And so, when we are delayed in traffic on 107, as is happening in front of the Church each weekday, just think of how God has blessed us and perhaps take out the Rosary and pray. It will make the time pass and the traffic lighter.

PARISH PICNIC: Thanks be to God that our Parish Picnic will return this year. I am most grateful to Deacon Raymond P. D'Alessio, Louise Shannon, the Knights, Squires, and Marian Guild for their dedication. The picnic will be **Sunday, September 12th beginning after the 10:30 Mass, or for those coming after having been at other Masses, at 12 Noon.** It promises to be a delicious, fun filled event, with games for the children, our usual DJ's the M&M Twins, and treats for everyone. Since we will not be having our annual Gala Casino Night this year, many of the prizes, auctions, and raffles will be available at the picnic. All parishioners are cordially invited.

HAITI: I am most grateful to all of you who contributed so generously to assist the earthquake victims in Haiti. From just a basket at the door a little over \$1,100 was collected. God reward you.

PARISH GOLF OUTING: On Thursday, August 19th we had our annual parish Golf Outing and Awards Dinner. We were unable to hold this parish event in 2020 because of the worldwide pandemic.

For several weeks I have personally appealed to you to come for the Golf Outing and Awards Dinner or even for only the Golf or the Dinner. I am most grateful to all of you who so generously and affirmatively responded to this request of your pastor. All records were broken. **A total of a little over \$100,000 was raised that day.** We are most grateful to our parishioners. This enables us to continue the mission of the Church in our community and parish.

The event was held at the Engineers' Club in Roslyn, a very beautiful venue. More than 88 golfers participated and 205 attended the awards dinner. This was due largely to our honorees that evening Thomas and Irene Principe. So many of their friends and colleagues from the courts, education, and sport attended to honor this wonderful couple. We know Mr. Principe as the head usher at the 8:30 Mass, but outside our parish, he is known to the judges, barristers, clerks, and personnel of the county and state courts. He is known as a professor at St. John's University, who has not missed a single basketball game in 50 years. He serves on the Review Board of the Diocese of Brooklyn, an active member of the Catholic Lawyers Guild, and the Deputy Grand Knight of our Knights of Columbus Council. His dear wife Irene is a loyal parishioner who has served St. Paul's in many ways. Always peaceful (as her name indicates) she is a strong support to so many. She recently hung all the paintings and rescripts in the Pastor's new office.

Our Golf Committee works for so very many months on this happy event. Don Cavanaugh, PGK, Paula Maturo, Anne Maione, and Thomas Principe himself are the members of the committee. They were so wonderfully assisted by the other committee members Deacon Raymond P. D'Alessio, Bob Kissel, Tracy Lynch, Jeanne – Marie Urban and Grand Knight Jim Viania.

As I mentioned earlier, this event broke all records. But if I had to say what was the most special part of the day/evening, I would have to say it was to have all of our dear and good parishioners together again after so many months of not seeing one another. The love and warmth in the room was palpable.

Yes, it was a truly delightful and magical evening. And last, but not least, to be thanked is our dear St. Joseph. For days before August 19th severe storms had been predicted. When I awoke on Thursday morning, the first thing I heard was a tornado warning for Nassau County. And yet the day could not be more peaceful and serene. ***Blessed Be God in His Angels and in His Saints!***

VISIT OF BISHOP MURPHY: Bishop William F. Murphy is the Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, having served as Bishop from 2001 until 2017. It was while he was Bishop that the renovation of the Church began. The Bishop had been scheduled to visit St. Paul's on Sunday, August 22nd, but due to Tropical Storm Henri, the visit was rescheduled. Bishop Murphy will be coming to St. Paul on Sunday, September 26th. He will celebrate the 10:30 Mass. Please make every effort to greet the Bishop that day.

RENOVATIONS: We are most grateful to all who contributed so generously to our Capital Campaign. We will be asking those who indicated interest in being contributors if they would be interested in this great work. Due to Covid, the Narthex (vestibule) Wall has not yet been

completed. The glass wall will allow the Church to be bathed in light and allow those who wish to stand in the back to do so while being able to see and hear the Mass. The repaving of the parking lot is advancing as three companies make bids to do the work. We are trying our best to be good stewards of your offerings.

MISSALETTES: We will have missalettes again in the Church, beginning with the First Sunday in Advent. Since it had not been permitted to use missalettes, the companies did not print as many as usual. Beginning with the New Liturgical Year, they will be readily available. The Knights of Columbus donated the burgundy colored missalette covers over seven years ago and they are still in great shape. Please take care of them and put them neatly into the pew racks. As you know the pews were renovated and there are now upholstered cushions on the pews and kneelers. Please care for them. They are part of your Church. Please gently put the kneelers down by hand. Please do not allow eating on the pews or standing on the upholstered kneelers.

In Jesus and Mary,

Monsignor James F. Pereda