

## A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

I want to mention a few things in these notes this week.

First, I want to acknowledge a thoughtful yet forceful letter I received this week urging me and the others giving homilies here this Sunday to be clear on the Christian imperatives around immigration and refugee resettlement, and how much the actions of our nation are in opposition to those imperatives.

Let me say that it is extremely rare for a priest to tell another homilist what to preach about. On rare occasions we homilists are all focused on one theme, such as Respect Life Sunday, but we compose our own remarks. Quite frankly, the scripture readings lend themselves to many different homilies and the homilist has to decide for himself. He has to weigh his words prayerfully in order to touch every person. For the record, we usually do not endorse or denounce specific government policies.

Rational people can and do disagree on many issues and politics and current events is an area rife with disagreement. My doctoral dissertation in Canon Law touched upon International Law and I can assure you the laws governing immigration and national borders and national sovereignty are very complex. Hopefully, those who are in tune with what is happening can find both legal and religious information to help them sort out the complexities. If you can check the website of the Catholic Bishops of the U.S. (USCCB.ORG) you may find some food for thought. We should, however, all pray that God watch over us all and keep us safe. That goes for the people of every country.

On another note, I also want to thank Father Matthew Takyi-Asante for a great two months with us here at St. Patrick's. He is a wonderful priest and he has been a great help. May God always bless him. Farewell Father Matthew!

Finally, I simply want to encourage everyone to help our local neighbors who are in need. The Archdiocese is asking all Catholics to donate non-perishable foods and provisions for those who cannot afford basic necessities. One way to help the poor, the homeless and the refugee is to donate to Catholic Charities or other Catholic (and non-Catholic) organizations which help people around the world regardless of nationality or faith. We also have the Good Samaritan Fund and other opportunities. If you are able to donate in any way, we will get the help to them. God Bless everyone.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.