

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

There is no question that the world we live in can be rather dangerous at times. In fact, if you listen to the news, there are so many stories of violence and hatred that it is discouraging and scary at the same time. Even considering acts of vandalism which might only be occasions of stupidity or mindlessness, it seems nothing is sacred. There is often little respect for persons or property.

I am writing these notes the day before the governor of NY State was to give a talk on Combating Hate Through Enhanced Security 2020. I was told today that the governor was going to mention the vandalism in our parish and I was invited to attend (last minute) but I could not. It is good that the governor is taking actions against faith-based institutions seriously and I appreciate the invitation. I hope the increased attention causes a real change in mindset for those who do evil things. After the governor's talk, there was supposed to be training on the application process for state money to help boost security at religious based entities. Our parish is already looking into these new grants.

By the way, the damaged stained glass windows in the Stone Church are being painstakingly repaired. We are also seeking to upgrade security measures as well.

Along those lines, at the suggestion of the Archdiocese of New York for all parishes, we are forming a Safety Committee. I am asking any active and former police officers who attend Mass to contact me if you are interested in volunteering for the committee. In addition, I have asked several other parishioners also to be a part of the same.

All together, we can stand united against all forms of hatred and violence. We continue to come together to experience God's presence at Mass. We should pray for God's guidance and protection in these challenging times. Remain vigilant and trust in God.

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, sweeping tail on the final letter.