

Dear Parishioners, Alumni, Family and Friends,

Good morning and thank you to everyone who made yesterday's fantastic picnic such a grand success! It was a great beautiful summer day and there was a wonderful spirit! I am most especially thankful to Parish Council Member Hiroko Sasaki and to Marymount's administration and staff, to the Head of School, Ms. Sarah Gallagher and to the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary for their continued support and hospitality. A week ago the Sisters celebrated their Feast Day, so a belated Tanti Auguri and Grazie Mille!

Every six years, the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist falls on a Sunday. In my 35 years as a priest, I have baptized many babies. Sometimes they are quiet, just fed, half asleep; some are boisterous, bouncy, making all kinds of gurgling baby sounds, and occasional screeches. And some are just not happy campers. They don't like the fancy outfits their parents have put them in – they're tired and hungry and if it's a day like today, very hot. However, no matter what their size, nationality, disposition or personality – they are all adorable little babies, brand new human beings, made in the image and likeness of God, ready to hit the world running and embrace their full potential. I always wonder: "Who will this child be? What will she do with her life? How will he grow into someone his parents will be proud of? If any one person has the potential to change the world, what will this baby accomplish? That was the question that the people asked about the 8-day old baby of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Surely he will follow in his father's footsteps. Surely they'll name him Zechariah like his father. But no, he's different. He's someone special, the miracle baby of elderly parents. He will herald a new age. His name will be John.

John the Baptist might have been a big disappointment to some parents today. He never went to college, never had a job, did not fit in with polite society, angered the authorities and ended up in prison. And yet, John was, and is, among the greatest of all human beings. Greatness is not determined by the world. Greatness does not lie in prestige, money, intelligence, education, fame, accomplishment or in the accumulation of temporary things. Rather, greatness lies in receiving the gifts of God and using them to their fullest potential in service to others. In his humility, John the Baptist felt unworthy to untie the sandals of the truly great One, Jesus. He taught us such humble greatness by his selflessness, by preparing the way of the Lord. He recognized and proclaimed that the light that had come into our world – the light that would affect what each child of God (each one of us) would become.

Paulist Father Tom Holahan is the presider and homilist for the 6:00 PM Vigil Mass on Saturday night and Maryknoll Father Ed Dougherty is the celebrant at the 9:00 AM Mass on Sunday morning. I will celebrant the 10:30 AM Mass, followed by coffee, iced tea and cornetti in the vestibule and garden of our Church.

Information and registration forms for next year's Religious Education Program will not be available until July 15, 2018. So please do not inquire before then, or send emails to me at this time. Have a very good rest of the week! Ciao for now! Father Greg