

Dear Parishioners, Alumni and Friends of St. Patrick's Church,

It was a beautiful weekend. The weather was cooler and less humid. We should enjoy it while we can as July is on the horizon. Once it arrives, the humidity and heat in our city can drain our energy and our ability to stay calm and cool. What might help is the focus of the readings for this coming Sunday. They are all about generosity and faith. Jesus is unbelievably generous with his time and his compassion. He sees a need. He responds, no matter what the cost. Jairus, whose daughter is dying and the woman with the 12-year hemorrhage both believe that Jesus can help them. They push forward because they have such faith in what is possible and they have faith in Jesus. They are not willing to sit back and let things happen. They may be ridiculed and pushed aside, but they go forward anyway. Would that everyone in the world could have such faith in the future, in humanity and in God?

Jairus and the woman saw hope personified when they saw Jesus walking toward them. Jairus fell at his feet and begged Jesus to help his daughter. The woman thought "If only I can touch Jesus." The closer she got, the more she came to appreciate that the power of Jesus to heal had more to do with his person, with who he was, and with her own faith in him. Jesus gave more than physical healing. He gave life and salvation: life to the 12 year old girl, healing to the woman, salvation for all involved. St. Paul refers to the generosity of Jesus in that it shows us how we can be generous. The gracious act of Jesus being among us calls us to gracious acts for one another. May we imitate his awareness of other human beings, no matter who they, no matter where they come from. May we imitate his ability to walk with those in need and his willingness to share himself. May we model our words and our actions on his generosity, on his compassion and on his very being.

This weekend, Fr. Tommaso Kane is back with us for a month and will celebrate the Saturday 6 PM Mass. This will be Fr. Tom Holahan's last weekend at St. Patrick's for the time being and he will be the presider and homilist at the 10.30 AM Mass. I will celebrate the Sunday 9 AM Mass.

But first we will celebrate the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, a major civil and religious holiday here in Rome. Our special Mass for this feast will be Friday, June 29, at 10.30 AM, with cantor and organist. The celebrant is Fr. Tom Kane and I will concelebrate to witness the renewal of vows of our parish council members and longtime parishioners, Edgardo and Sabrina Cruz Yu on their 25th Anniversary. And the following week join us on Wednesday, the 4th of July at 6 PM for our traditional American Independence Day Mass with music and prayers for the occasion.

We are thoroughly redesigning our process for next year's Family Based Religious Education Program. Information and registration forms will not be available until July 15, so please do not inquire before then, or send emails to me at this time. Fluent knowledge of English for both parents and children is required. The minimum age for First Communion is now 8 years old and the Third Grade (by the first day of class) and for Confirmation it is 14 years old and the Ninth Grade. For the First Communion and Confirmation classes, all families must set up an interview with me after submitting the application.

That is all for now. I look forward to seeing you soon. Ciao for now and have a pleasant, calm, cool and non-stressful week. Father Greg