Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who attended the Holy Hour for the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. This prayerful time, led by Archbishop Cordileone, inaugurated the annual national Vocations Awareness Week. I am grateful for the attendance by a diverse representation of our parish: families, seniors, members of our Hispanic community, and many young people, including young men discerning a call to the priesthood and religious life. This was a true reflection of our parish and local Church community.

The Archbishop blessed the Tina Zanoni Flower Room in the sacristy, a memorial to a very special person who dedicated so much of her time and talent to making St. Pius an aesthetically beautiful sacred space. Thanks to a generous gift by Jim and Maryann Barry, the Archbishop also blessed the baptistery which now dons stunning watercolor images of the Baptism of Our Lord and St. John Vianney, patron saint of priests. This prayerful space is now dedicated for the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. My sincere thanks to Stephanie and Ryan Herbst, John Philpott and Gary Castelli, whose hard work and diligence made the blessing of the paintings possible during the Archbishop’s visit.

This past Saturday evening we celebrated our annual St. Pius School auction at the Hiller Aviation Museum. Under the leadership of co-chairs Mandi Lonergan and Heather Torres and the PTG, funds were raised for the support of our school. It was a wonderful evening thanks to the hard work and tireless efforts of many people. This past Saturday we also celebrated our Mass of Remembrance and reception hosted by our Grief Ministry. It was a special time to remember those who have died but also to rejoice and express gratitude for the lives of women and men who have meant so much to us.

Today’s readings on the theme of resurrection are timely as we dedicate the month of November to remembering the souls of the faithful departed. In 2 Maccabees, the context of the mother and her seven sons being martyred comes in the face of King Antiochus decreeing the abolition of Judaism in Israel. Rather than capitulate to betraying their consciences, the eight would rather die. “After watching all seven of her sons be tortured to death for refusing pork, the mother herself is executed. In one of the most unforgettable sections in the book, throughout these tortures, the sons and the mother speak movingly and courageously about their faith in the God of Israel, the justice of the final judgment, and the hope of the resurrection.” [A Catholic Introduction to the Bible: The Old Testament, Ignatius Press].

There is a direct parallel between 2 Maccabees and Luke’s Gospel wherein the Sadducees, who do not believe in the resurrection, contradict Jesus. In both readings, seven brothers die. What unites their deaths is holding tenaciously to the hope of resurrection. “That the dead will rise even Moses made known in the passage about the bush, when he called out ‘Lord,’ the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.” Be tenacious in joyful hope that we, too, will one day share in the fullness of God’s glory in the resurrection.

Fr. Tom