

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we gather together as a parish family to celebrate the solemnity of St. Pius X, the patron saint of our parish. Following the 9:30 Mass, our Women's Club has graciously and generously sponsored a pancake breakfast to which all are invited. Today, we also come together at the 9:30 Mass to celebrate the Mass of the Holy Spirit with our school community. We prayerfully invoke the power of the Holy Spirit to watch over and guide our parish school as we enter a new school year. We pray for the success of the work of our hands as we work together to build up the Kingdom of God within the context of our academic mission. This is also a time to celebrate new beginnings and welcome new members to our parish school: Mr. Marc Nava, Principal; Ms. Catie Costa, Vice-Principal; Kelly Andreano (2); Kasturi Basu (5); Aly Garcia (6); Christopher McCreddin (7); Steven Olujic (8); and Tony Eiras (Music). One of the reasons why we decided to celebrate the Mass of the Holy Spirit as a parish family is to signal our desire to bring the parish and school together. The school is a mission of the parish and it is important that we interact together. I am grateful that Mr. Nava shares this same goal of recognizing that the "parish side" and the "school side" are not separate or mutually exclusive entities. The success of St. Pius parish depends on our supporting each other and being present both in the celebration of the Mass and the various activities which make this a wonderful and unique community.

We also honor today in a special way our patron saint, Pope St. Pius X. Giuseppi Melchior Sarto was born on June 2, 1835 in Reise, Venetia (then part of the Austrian empire and now a part of northern Italy). He was born into a very large family and pursued the priesthood. In 1884, Pope Leo XIII appointed Sarto Bishop of Mantua and then Cardinal and Patriarch of Venice in 1893. Sarto ascended the throne of Peter in 1903 and served as Supreme Pontiff until his death on August 20, 1914. He was noted for his reform of the liturgical practices of the Church and of lowering the age when children could receive Holy Communion. He believed that the Eucharist should be made accessible to children as young as age seven. He held to the belief that this would invigorate and strengthen the Church. He wrote, "Holy communion is the shortest and safest way to heaven. There are others: innocence, but that is for little children; penance, but we are afraid of it; generous endurance of trials of life, but when they come, we weep and ask to be. The surest, easiest, shortest way is the Eucharist." Let us commit ourselves to celebrating the Eucharist and by so doing permeate and inform all that we do so as a strong and vibrant Roman Catholic community.

Over these past few weeks, we have lost several parishioners. I know this has been a painful time for many of us. Let us pray for the repose of the souls of Efren Meleza, Katie Stafford, Nancy Geenen and Amy Provencio. Each of these parishioners left an indelible mark upon the life of our school and parish community and we grieve their loss. In the midst of this sadness, however, is amazing grace. The generosity and support of so many has brought much light and consolation to the families and friends of these brothers and sisters. We commend their souls to the tender mercies of God. Let us lift one another in prayer and support one another. Let us pray to Almighty God through the intercession of our Blessed Mother for all the gifts He has so lavished upon us! We have so much for which to be grateful. St. Pius X, Pray for Us!

Fr. Tom