

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

During this time of pandemic, I have continued to be amazed by the outpouring of generosity and corporal works of mercy demonstrated by our parishioners. I am grateful to our very capable St. Vincent de Paul chapter, led by Rick Boitano, Don West, John Clardy and David Philpott, who have been delivering food to those in need in our community. They go to the food bank, deliver and break down the food here at St. Pius in their pantry and then deliver bags of groceries to those in need. I would ask that if you have some spare time and energy, as well as the desire to practice Christian charity, please reach out to our SVdeP chapter and ask about volunteer opportunities. They can always use the help! I also want to thank our parish community for your consistently generous financial support through the fifth Sunday collection dedicated to the good works of SVdeP. Father Edgardo has been delivering food to the needy as well, in silent humility and gentleness!

Thanks are also in order to Derek Marshall, a parishioner and father of school alum James Marshall, who painted the freshly minted control room which will be used for the future live-streaming of Masses here at St. Pius X. The paint was donated by Gray's Paint (thanks as always for your unfailing generosity and support) and the carpeting was donated by John Philpott. John, Raul Velez and Ryan Herbst continue to take the MAGIS to a whole new level!! I look forward to sharing photos with you once the operation is up and running.

Over two months ago, our longtime parishioner Ken Hurley approached me about hosting an assembly of Knights and Dames of Malta who were distributing hygiene kits to the homeless in the area. It was an amazing and truly impressive operation; members of the Knights of Malta accomplished the following: 2500 hygiene kits for the homeless and 400 grocery bags for the homeless and working poor. The hygiene kits were distributed on the Peninsula, San Jose and Monterey. The grocery bags were distributed by the St. Francis Center here in Redwood City. I am most grateful to Knights Ken Hurley and Brendan Walsh as well as their families and Malta members who worked so diligently and energetically in support of some of the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Today's readings speak to us about the tension between good and evil and darkness and light. Jeremiah speaks of the danger faced by those who seek to do right by the Lord. Juxtaposed by this danger is the assurance that God protects his own. "O Lord of hosts, you who test the just, who probe the mind and heart...praise the Lord, for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked." Indeed, we are tested by God, but he knows so intimately our motivations and promptings of the heart. Even amidst the darkness, we need not be afraid. God hears our cry and delivers us from the snare of the fowler.

Jesus understands the fear and trepidation of his disciples. He tells them to not be afraid, that if they speak the truth then the light will be victorious. This Gospel message is one of confirmation and hope as we continue on our pilgrim's way!

--Fr. Tom