

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Today's readings continue to inspire us as we celebrate the implications of this Easter Season. In the Acts of the Apostles, we see the apostles Paul and Barnabas continuing to push and press against the old order in order to spread the Good News. They faced many obstacles and challenges, yet they persevered in their faith and encouraged the new companions to do the same. This is an essential Christian characteristic: to build one another up, encourage one another and surrender ourselves to God's providential plan for us. Paul rightly exclaims that "It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God." We see powerful imagery of how the Church was moving farther away from its initial Jewish epicenter and extending to the periphery of the Gentile world, truly transforming and creating a more universal Church. This apostolic zeal is dependent upon God's grace and initiative; however, through our own Baptism we are invited to accept that initiative and be co-workers in the Kingdom. Paul and Barnabas inspire us to "keep on keeping on" amid difficulties and setbacks.

I am currently reading the book [A Still More Excellent Way: How Saint Paul Points Us to Jesus](#) by Joseph Durepos. Durepos offers this insight that helps to frame for us the nature of grace and perseverance for the sake of the Kingdom. He writes, "It's hard for me to understand Paul's fierce commitment to his vision in light of the difficulties he faced. Paul was Christ-haunted, and we only understand him in the context of his relationship to the risen Christ Jesus. But perhaps to really get Paul, I might have to ask myself a hard question. Can I remain faithful, as Paul did, to the truth I have come to know; that it is in my weakness I find my strength in Jesus?" This is an excellent reflection for prayer as we continue daily to discern how the Lord speaks to us amidst our unique and varied circumstances. Paul models for us the tenacious spirit so often required to bring the proclamation of the Good News to others.

This past week, the Archdiocese of San Francisco announced priest personnel changes and I would like to share them with you. First, with great thanksgiving we welcome three new priests to our presbyterate: Father Kyle Faller, Father Ernie Jandonero, and Father Michael Rocha. We pray for them as they begin their priestly ministry. The Archbishop has appointed Father Faller as Parochial Vicar here at St. Pius. I am grateful to the Archbishop for this assignment. Many of you know Father Faller from his years of assisting with our youth ministry and Confirmation program. Welcome, Father Kyle! Also, Father Ted Magpayo has been assigned as Parochial Vicar of St. Bartholomew's Church in San Mateo. I am grateful for Father Ted's service to our parish and wish him all the best in his new ministry. Since January 1, 2018, I have served as Administrator of St. Matthias Parish. Given the responsibilities I assume as Pastor of St. Pius and Associate Vocation Director of the Archdiocese, Archbishop Cordileone has appointed Father David A. Ghiorso as Pastor of St. Matthias Church.

I am pleased to announce our new school principal. Mr. Marc Nava attended St. Peter's School and Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory in San Francisco. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree in History, Theology, and Religious Studies at St. Mary's College of California in Moraga. He continued his studies at the Remick Leadership Program at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, one of the most prestigious education leadership programs in the nation, where he earned master's degrees in Education and Educational Leadership. I am grateful that Mr. Nava will be joining our community and I look forward to working with him collaboratively to continue the rich history of a strong Catholic community and academic excellence.

We also gather this morning to celebrate Rita Carroll's Mass of Thanksgiving for her tireless love and devoted service to our St. Pius Parish and school community. We welcome back Father Jim and Father Paul, priests who worked with Rita as well as alumni, families and friends whose lives have been immeasurably enriched by Rita's wisdom, compassion, charity and love, most especially for our young people.

—Father Tom