

My dear friends in Christ,

PEACE TO ALL!

On Friday, September 11, we gathered in prayer to remember the victims of that horrific event that changed the landscape of our nation. It was a moment of darkness and pain. Many lives were lost and many families shattered. But despite everything, we got up from the ashes to remind the world that nothing and nobody can stop us from living our life.

Jesus asked a question in the gospel of Luke, "Can a blind person guide a blind person?" The answer is no. Yes, a blind person cannot guide a blind person.

During this pandemic, it must be hard for the blind people to be going around to many places especially now with so many signs (Wear your Mask, Social Distancing, Sanitize your Hands) posted on the front doors of grocery stores, restaurants, clothing stores, etc. We must be the guide for them. When we do this, then we are telling them that we care for them.

The terrorists that inflicted pain and death to this country 19 years ago were so blinded by hate and callousness. They had no regard for the lives of others including their own. With so many things going in the world right now, we cannot follow this kind of path. It will only bring destruction and death to many people.

Every day, during this pandemic, hundreds of people die! Part of the problem is----- us. We have been blinded by selfishness, uncaring attitude, and arrogance. We cannot be calloused and irresponsible. We need to do our part to stop this virus. Otherwise we become the virus: uncaring and deadly without regard to life.

For so many months, I have been receiving letters from people about the importance of wearing mask. Many are very thankful and very positive about it. Yet some don't get it. Many are making it a political issue between Republicans and Democrats. It should not be! This is the reason why we are in this situation. Wearing mask, social distancing, hands sanitizing, doing these things, is our Christian duty. It is about loving our neighbor. This is a commandment! Unless we have forgotten who we are because we are so blinded by selfishness and uncaring attitude, we will never get there to where we want to be. My friends, this is not between two opposing parties. This is between life and death.

If we have not learned from what happened 19 years ago, then we should not be surprised if we continue this path of destruction and darkness. Shame on us! It is very tiring to see the attitude of so many people especially those who supposedly call themselves Christians. It is time for us to be awakened. This nation will not heal until we get rid of our anger and ignorance. In the First Reading today, we are asked, "Could anyone nourish anger against one another and expect healing from the Lord?" We don't want to stand before the judgment of God to hear the Lord say to us, "You wicked servant!"

I cannot forget also what's happening in the Bay Area with fires all over the place that has given us bad air quality for many days now. I am watching the condition of our air quality. Please continue to check our website for updates and new information.

I would like to congratulate those who will be ordained tomorrow, September 12, 2020, to the Permanent Diaconate of our Diocese. This will be held at Good Shepherd Church in Pittsburg. I will be there because I will be one of the vesting priests to one of the candidates.

Congratulations also to our First Communicants who celebrated their First Communion two weeks ago and those who will be receiving their First Communion tomorrow, September 12, 2020.

In spite of this pandemic, we as a church, will continue to do our part to minister to God's people. We are in this together, united in faith and in love. ONE WORLD! ONE NATION! ONE COMMUNITY OF FAITH! Together, WE WILL RISE AGAIN!

Do not let your neighbors with no care in their heart to guide you especially if that neighbor is blinded with selfishness and ignorance. Be the light in darkness! Many are suffering! Stop being blind to the realities of our situation. See the world from your heart! Please activate that LOVE and COMPASSION in your HEART! People are dying, brothers and sisters! PEOPLE ARE DYING!

Thank you again for your continued support and love for our parish community. I cannot thank you enough for your understanding and patience.

In Christ,

Fr. Geoffrey, your servant