

November 5, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I am happy to be back! Thank you so much for all your prayers. I had a wonderful time visiting churches as part of my annual retreat. Chimayo Chapel in New Mexico was a place where I was able to spend time reflecting and praying. The simplicity of the place made it perfect for my self-examination and journal writing. After Chimayo, I went to visit the Chapel of Loreto where I had the chance to pray to St. Joseph my Patron Saint, then visited other Mission churches and culminated my pilgrimage to visit the beautiful Cathedral of Santa Fe. My eight days stay in the area was spiritually fruitful. I have been praying for all of you especially for protection from this COVID and PEACE and UNITY for our Country and the whole world.

Our situation has never been the same. As I was driving around, I saw the big difference of how people are interacting. But, there are still good Samaritans and I could say, "life is still beautiful." It was in Gallup area where I had a problem with my car because the under engine covering was loose and it created so much noise, so I needed to tighten it or to take it off. I had no way to do it myself because I didn't have my tools. I was in public parking trying to figure out what is the best remedy for my situation, until a man with his son came. He asked me if I needed help and I showed him the problem. The son went to their car, got the tools and the dad unhooked the coverings of my car's engine. The problem got solved. I told them I am a priest and they both asked me to bless them. They were Navajos.

Yes, I am sharing this to you because this is what we need. The ugly news and so much negativity out there must not control us. I am hoping that we must bring back humanity again to its finest level. I am aware of what is happening politically. But, I am praying that we will be united again, forging better friendships and pursuing happiness in a world where all of us are vulnerable.

After the most historical election we have ever had, the very good Bishop Weisenburger has this letter for all of us:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The political activities of the last 24 hours will have lasting significance not only for our great Nation but also for the world. I would note that there are those who state that elections end in two categories: winners and losers. I believe there is a third category—winners who quickly will experience "buyer's remorse." The fact is that our Nation has never known elected leadership that fully mirrored or supported our Church's teachings, especially in the realm of our ethics. However, we must remember that the Church has worked with every administration in U.S. history and found not only areas of disagreement and discord but also areas of agreement and cooperation. I have no doubt that regardless of who ultimately is elected President or elected into congressional leadership, our Church will continue to enter into dialogue and cooperate in those areas where we can best serve not only our membership but the good people of our Nation and world. In those areas where we cannot cooperate we will continue to be prophetic. For these reasons, and regardless of the final election outcomes, we Catholics must sow the seeds of unity in a deeply divided Nation even as we renew our commitment to our values. Ultimately, our vocation as followers of Jesus Christ is to be witnesses of hope for our families, communities, and world

Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger

Let us always be true to our basic calling as Christians and as human beings, "to love one another as Jesus loves us."

Loving you all in Christ,

Fr. Arnold Aurillo