JMJ

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – C – 2022

Last Homily as Pastor of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux Parish

June 25-26, 2022

God has been showing me recently how perfect His timing is. On Friday, the Supreme Court of the United States overturned Roe v. Wade. It was an answer to almost 50 years of praying, and it happened on the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. And yesterday, Saturday, was the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. What timing! In a much less historic way, it seems more than coincidental that my last Sunday homily as your pastor coincides with the liturgical date of my first Sunday homily as your pastor, the Sunday following the feast of Corpus Christi, the Eucharistic Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I want to begin by saying “Thank you.” Thank you to Father Archie and to the others priests who have served here with me. Thank you to our deacons, to our staff, to Father James White who founded this parish and built this church, to Father Bernie Jewitt my predecessor who was the pastor here for even longer than I’ve been, and to all of you parishioners, with a special thank-you to you pioneers who been here, worshipped here, ministered here from the days even before Father White.

Thank you for your kindness to me and for your support of the mission of this parish, which is the mission of the Church; namely, to thank God for His goodness and to share the Good News of our Savior with others.

I want to share two images with you today. One of them I learned from an anonymous source, and the other I learned from St. Francis de Sales.

The first is the image – and the lesson – of the Triangle. . . .

The second is the lesson taught by St. Francis de Sales. It’s the image he used to teach how we should journey through life: like a little child walking with his father. . . .

I take many things into retirement with me: memories of the parishes I’ve served in and of all the people I’ve met along the Way – along the way to the New Jerusalem. The message of today’s Gospel for me is that we mustn’t look back with too much longing for the things we leave behind, because that could cause us to forget that God is our constant Companion all along the way, and that our true home and greatest blessings still lie in the future.

May God keep you close to Him always, and may you get closer and closer and closer to Him. Amen.