

September 10, 2017

From Fr. Jim . . .

Saint Mother Theresa of Calcutta said, “If you look with your eyes, you will see only a dying leper. But if you look with your heart, you will see Jesus lying there.” This is great to remember as we keep trying to be about the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Works of mercy are acts of the heart – gifts for the Lord, himself.



Parish Picnic at Stricker’s Grove: On Friday, September 15, we will join Our Lady of Visitation Parish at Stricker’s Grove for a parish picnic of food, rides and games for the kids, a great evening of meeting new faces and a wonderful opportunity for our parishes to gather together just to have fun! The picnic starts at 5pm. If anyone needs a ride or can help drive, please meet in the parish parking lot at 4:30pm. Thanks so much and come and have a great time.

September Eleventh: On September 11, 2001, there was a terrorist attack on the United States of America that involved the bombing and collapsing of the Twin Towers in New York City. It was sixteen years ago, this Monday, that this most tragic event happened.

This was such a tragic happening for our country that I am certain most of us remember exactly what we were doing on that day when the airliners were used as bombs to strike terror into the heart of our nation. I was pastor at Corpus Christi, in Dayton. I had just finished morning mass and I was at the dining room table reading the morning paper and listening to The Today Show when the sad news was being reported. On television, I saw the second plane strike the Twin Towers. It was live reporting, not a replay. I called an impromptu staff meeting with whoever was present at the time to discuss how we should share the news with our school children and teachers. We asked them to all gather in church for a spontaneous prayer service and we began the important process of praying our country and all the victims and their families through the hurt and pain. Sixteen years later, the important task of the Church of God is to keep praying everyone through the hurt and pain and to be thankful for the healing that has occurred.

Soon after the tragedy of September 11, the U.S. Catholic Bishops issued a pastoral statement offering words of consolation, criteria for moral discernment, and a call to action and solidarity. In it, they identified what would be required to effectively confront terrorism in the future: “We need to nurture among ourselves faith and hope to strengthen our spirits by placing our trust in God, rather than ourselves; courage and compassion that move us to action; humility and kindness so that we can put the needs and interests of others ahead of our own; patience and perseverance to endure the long struggle for justice; civility and charity so that we can treat others with respect and love.” In hindsight, are these not the virtues that have promoted healing so far and are they not the virtues to continue to promote the healing and peace that are still needed? Sixteen years later, it is still the task of the church to keep praying everyone through the hurt and pain, especially since the threat of terrorism is so imminent in many countries of the world, today.

Hurricane Harvey: Our Archbishop has asked us to join with all parishes in our Archdiocese and in the United States and take up a second collection today for the victims of Hurricane Harvey and all those suffering from the flooding that this storm has caused. With our actions and our prayers we can help people through their hurt and pain. Thank you so much for your kindness and concern for this important request.