

## Fr. Martin's Reflection – September 25, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to begin by asking you for your prayers and support for our sisters and brothers in Puerto Rico as they try to recover after the devastating effects of Hurricane Fiona. I pray they will receive the support and help needed so they can rebuild their lives once again.

**“O God, you bring hope out of emptiness, energy out of fear, new life out of grief and loss; comfort all who have lost loved ones, home, and livelihoods due to natural disasters. Give them security, a place to live, and neighbors they trust to be with them, a new sign of peace to the world.”**

### **In Communion with Jesus – A Pilgrimage to Mary's House**

The Diocese of Trenton is organizing a pilgrimage to the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Washington DC, November 12, 2022, 12 noon – 4pm. The theme is ‘In Communion with Jesus – A pilgrimage to Mary's House.’ The focus will be on Christ's real presence in the Holy Eucharist. This will be a wonderful family event, with special activities for our grade school students, and organized tours of the Basilica. We are organizing a bus, in partnership with our cohort, picking up from St Mary Church, Holy Assumption Church, St Paul Church, Burlington, and Corpus Christi Church, Willingboro. If you are interested, please contact the office with your name and telephone number and number of people coming with you. All the details haven't been worked out yet but will be in the coming weeks.

### **Ferdinand Loretangeli - 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

On behalf of the whole parish, and on my own behalf, I would like to extend a sincere and heart felt congratulations to Ferdinand Loretangeli – better known as ‘Ferd,’ on this amazing milestone of his 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a member of the Knights of Columbus. May God continue to bless you and strengthen you for all the years that lie ahead, and may the Holy Spirit continue to inspire and bless all in the Knights of Columbus for their generosity and sacrifice to God's people.

### **Saint Vincent de Paul Society**

Today, at our 9:30 mass, we give thanks and pray for all the volunteers involved with our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society. We thank them for all they do for our brothers and sisters in need. May God bless the good work we do, and may we support you in your work through our prayers and financial support.

### **Theme of our Sunday Readings:**

Luke shows us those who blithely turn down their invitation to the banquet of the Kingdom in order to try out their new vacation home, their latest Porsche or the refitted yacht. Through the Crafty Steward, he reminds us that those who want to make money are often sharper than those who want to make the Kingdom. Through the Rich Fool he reminds us that well-stocked barns are no remedy against death. For me there are three particularly horrible features of today's parable: firstly, the flea-ridden dogs licking Lazarus' sores: there are no pets in Palestine; dogs are either bristling guard-dogs or mangy curs. Secondly, the Rich Man's continuing self-absorption: even after death he still does not recognize Lazarus' existence and thinks only of his own burning tongue; contrast Abraham's gentleness: it almost looks as though he would cross the chasm if he could. Thirdly, the obdurate brothers; they are just not willing to listen, even to the most startling event; nothing will distract them from their own selfish pre-occupations.

Let us become more aware of our brothers and sisters in need – may God give us heart to help in any way we can. Have a wonderful week, filled with God's love and kindness.

*Fr. Martin*