

Fr. Martin's Reflection – October 26, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are moving into a busy couple of weeks. This coming Wednesday, Oct. 29th, we are having a Holy Hour at St. Mary Church, Bordentown beginning at 7pm. The theme for this Holy Hour is 'Vocations.' The last line of last Sunday's gospel really made an impact on me. Jesus stated, **"But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"** (LK 18:8) This is a very profound question.

What is faith, how do we express it? Is it about cultivating a personal relationship with God? Is it cultivating a family prayer life? Is it about attending mass on the weekend? It is all the above and more. What is missing is our obligation to pray for the welfare and needs of others. Wednesday, October 29th gives us that opportunity to do just that. I firmly believe that God is calling as many people today to the priesthood and religious life as God did in the generations before us. So, what is different today? Everything! Our world has become a very noisy and busy place. Hearing God's call is extremely difficult for many. It is hard to hear God's soft voice speaking to us. A very important element of encouraging vocations is developing a culture for the growth and encouragement of vocations, and Wednesday, October 29th does just that.

We are such a habitual race of people and often hate to have it changed, but I feel we need to ask this question regarding whether or not I should go. Do I really care if there are more Priests, Deacons or Religious? What have I, or do I receive from the priests, deacons, and religious that are in my life now? Sacramentally, could I live without them? Spiritually, could I live without them?

Dear friends, I know these questions are very much in your face, even somewhat crude, but they are very real. A vocation isn't just a personal thing; it's very much a community thing. Christ Jesus instructed us to **"Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send labors into the harvest."**

Going back to the quote from last Sunday's gospel reading; **"But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"** Let's come together on Wednesday, October 29th and show the Lord that he will find faith on earth.

Two Special Masses for our Departed Loved Ones

Friends, this year we are doing something a little different. Fr. Anson and I are celebrating two masses, **November 5th, St. Mary Church, Bordentown** and **November 12th, Holy Assumption, Roebling**. **Both masses are at 7pm**. The purpose of these two Masses is to remember and celebrate the lives of all our departed loved ones going back through the years.

On November 19th at St. Mary Church, Bordentown a special liturgy will be celebrated remembering all those who died over the previous 12 months. This can be a very difficult time for many people. Let us come together and pray for the needs of each other.

Prayer for Vocations

O Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, draw all people to yourself, especially those you are calling to the priesthood and consecrated life. Give your Church, we pray, fervent priests to serve at your altar, and holy men and women who will devote their lives to prayer and service as consecrated brothers and sisters. May the Heart of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament be praised, adored, and loved with grateful affection at every moment in all the tabernacles of the world, even until the end of time. Amen.

Have a blessed week and please pray for your priests, deacons, and religious.

Fr. Martin