



ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE

AS THIS YEAR COMES TO AN END, WHAT COMES TO MY MIND?

GRATITUDE

Dear St. Andrew,

Yes, while acknowledging over and over again, that this has been a horrible year for everyone, I still find infinitely more reasons to be grateful to God for all He has done for us than to be mad at Him. Yes, there is no doubt that the corona virus did not only devastate our health and sanity, our economy and our spiritual lives and much more, but it has also impacted our lives in ways that will remain with us for most of our lives. During this time, some of us have lost our dear ones, others their jobs, others their relationships and some others their faith. To you all, my heart goes out in prayer and compassion.

However, as we begin this year, let us keep in mind that it could have been worse and accept the fact that with every passing year we must leave behind the bad memories and our mistakes and move on. Let us all be positive and embrace this new year 2021 with positive aspirations for the future. Let us be grateful!

On that note, my first gratitude goes to you my dedicated staff of St. Andrews who stood by me every step of the way as we adjusted constantly throughout this year to new ways of serving our parishioners. Many of you willingly wore very new, multiple and strange hats designed by “Mr. Corona” and myself that you never wore before and even adjusted with amazing distinction. Thank you!

My next gratitude goes to my Ad Hoc Parish Leadership Team which I assembled at the beginning of the pandemic to help me shift through the various directives coming from our diocese, our health department and from the state and federal governments in order to provide a safe worship environment for all of us. You did an excellent job! Thank you!

I also thank you, my talented councils, (Pastoral, Finance and Stewardship Councils) for providing me with wise guidance in various aspects of our parish with its constantly changing landscapes during this pandemic. Thank you!

I thank our Knights of Columbus who were ever ready to step up and offer their services in many different ways to serve the various pastoral and spiritual needs. You went over and beyond in offering to help even when I did not ask you whenever you saw a need. Thank you!

Our Adult Faith and Spiritual Formation Team also did a fantastic job in helping me design a vibrant faith formation protocol beginning with our 30-day Journey Toward Holiness Campaign, culminating into our Advent Mission. This team will continue to serve our faith and spiritual formation needs beyond the Corona virus pandemic. To you, I say, thank you!

From the desk of our Pastor
Fr. Robert S. Aliunzi, AJ



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There were many other volunteers who worked behind the scenes to make our parish run so smoothly whom I cannot mention all. Many of you, like Saint Joseph, worked silently and diligently behind the scenes to ensure that our parish maintained its ability to serve its members uninterrupted. You did not disappoint. Thank you!

And you my dear St. Andrew, you have always been there for your parish throughout this period, attending Masses in person whenever you could and following it online whenever you could not. Know that your presence in both ways gave Fr. Edward, Fr. Teilo, and myself great encouragement to serve you. Despite this hard economic situation, many of you have continued to support our parish financially which had lost over 60% of its revenue due to the pandemic. Know that we love you and we are here to serve you. Thank you.

Most importantly, I would like to give my greatest gratitude to the almighty God who has seen all of us through the darkest moments of the year. I have no doubt that He will grant us even a better 2021 with manifold blessings. May this year, therefore, bring you new happiness, new goals, new achievements, good health, and a lot of new inspirations in your life.

Happy New Year 2021 to you all!