



FROM THE PASTOR

Fr. Brian Johnson

Dear St. Pius X and St. Anthony Church Family,

Peace! I enjoyed so much our first weekend praying together, and I pray that it was pretty close to the same mass celebrations always traditionally prayed here over the years! Again, I hope for as seamless a transition as possible! I loved meeting a lot of you at the church doors before or after Mass. I am still working out the timing situation and the travel between parishes, but God is blessing me with open roads and clear paths! How does that old Irish prayer go? ***“May the road rise up to meet you, May the wind be ever at your back; May the sun shine warm upon your face.”*** We certainly have the July Sun warmth, but I find the roads of Livingston and Marshall counties to be beautiful drives and so far the lake breezes have moved me right along! So I am thankful!

I ask everyone’s patience about my learning names, places and times. I thank you for introducing yourselves to me by name, and I am trying to remember. I may need that for a while as reminders, because sometimes at the church doors, I do good for about the first seven names, and then everything runs together! Until next time! It seems like my learning the second time around is much faster and longer lasting! So, be patient with me. I had a friend once, Edwina, who was 89 years old, and she would always say whenever her mind was running over with details to do or remember, ‘My tablet is full!’ As a kid, she told the nuns that in school that whenever her *spiral ring paper tablet* filled up, and she had no more pages to flip over and write on! (This was long before the ipad and android versions!) But I keep my own tablet handy and I take quick notes.

Guess who is having a baby? Zechariah and Elizabeth. Today we celebrate the birth of John the Baptist, and we thank God for his role of introducing and preparing the way for Jesus’ arrival to save us. John is an excellent example of a disciple as a messenger to help introduce people to Jesus. Disciples do that; they set up the meet between Christ and other people. Or as a missionary once said, ‘If you meet me and forget me, don’t worry, it is nothing, but if you stay in contact with who I am about to introduce you, you have everything-Jesus!’ John does that. He himself will say in John 3:30, “He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease.” John was saying that once he introduced Jesus to us, as a good disciple he must step out of the Way. And John did, because shortly after Jesus began making his rounds in Galilee and Judea, John was arrested and killed. But John did his part! He made ready for the Way-Jesus! How can we be good disciples of Jesus and help others meet Him? What can we do to introduce Jesus to them? And afterward do we work to keep the focus on Jesus and not ourselves? Something to pray about this week!

Peace and Prayers,

Fr. Brian Johnson