



## From the Desk of Fr. Leo F. Arnone

### A Brief Stint in Ordinary Time:

For six short weeks we will observe a brief stint in Ordinary Time in our liturgical calendar before we enter the Lent and Easter Seasons. It's an opportunity to work off

all those Christmas cookies and to actually engage all those New Year's resolutions we so boldly made just 10 days ago! To help get you started and to wind you up for Lent, I encourage you to reengage your old pious practices: Weekend and Daily Mass Attendance, Recitation of the Rosary a half hour before EVERY Mass, Thursdays and Saturdays Adoration and Reconciliation, and I hope very soon to reengage our Adult Faith Formation sessions. Come on folks! Get off that couch and off the side-lines and onto the regular and active practices of your Faith!

**Hey, Buddy! Can you spare a pint?** There will be a blood drive on Thur, Jan. 14 at SA hall. The need is always great - so if you remain untainted, consider donating a pint!



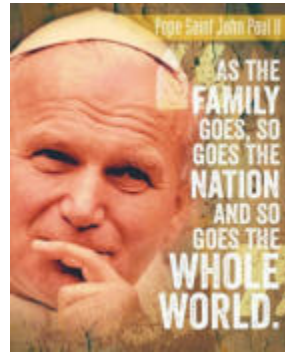
**FX Capital Improvements:** As part of our security evaluations on the parishes, I pleased to inform FX that we recently replaced all the emergency lights in the church building. A special thank you goes out to **Bob Biter Electric** who completed the work!

I also recently sign a contract with Best Window to replace the windows on the ground and first floors of the FX Church Office and All Saints Preschool building. I expect this work to be done in March. (We hope to complete the third floor next year.) This work was possible thanks to the success of our festival and CMD over goal donations this year.

**Parish Census & Registration Updates:** Our census records show that many families have not been attending for the past two years and more. It is necessary for me 1) to try to win them back, or 2) remove them from the census so that we are not assessed \$260.00 for each family on our census but not in our pews.

Every inactive family will receive a letter inquiring of their current membership. If they do not respond within a reasonable time, I will remove their names from our census so that we are not assessed for them.

**Thank You my Christmas Angels!** In spite of all our covid limitations this year, I am so very thankful to all of you who helped decorate our churches and provide music and services for all our liturgies - all of it so very beautiful and meaningful! May God bless you for your courage to come forward with your service and with your worship in the very face of covid!



## FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO

### I - FORMING A COMMUNITY OF PERSONS

#### The Elderly in the Family

27. There are cultures which manifest a unique veneration and great love for the elderly: far from being outcasts from the family or merely tolerated as a useless burden, they continue to be present and to take an active and responsible part in family life, though having to respect the autonomy of the new family; above all they carry out the important mission of being a witness to the past and a source of wisdom for the young and for the future.

Other cultures, however, especially in the wake of disordered industrial and urban development, have both in the past and in the present set the elderly aside in unacceptable ways. This causes acute suffering to them and spiritually impoverishes many families.

The pastoral activity of the Church must help everyone to discover and to make good use of the role of the elderly within the civil and ecclesial community, in particular within the family. In fact, "the life of the aging helps to clarify a scale of human values; it shows the continuity of generations and marvelously demonstrates the interdependence of God's people. The elderly often have the charism to bridge generation gaps before they are made: how many children have found understanding and love in the eyes and words and caresses of the aging! And how many old people have willingly subscribed to the inspired word that the 'crown of the aged is their children's children' (Prv. 17:6)!"

**Reflection:** Allow me a trip down memory lane...

My dad's dad (known to me as "Papa") came from Sicily at age 17. After a few years working in our coal mines, he was able to buy his shoe shop which he worked for 53 years in Johnstown. In my junior year of high school (1980-81, I turned 17 that summer) his eye sight was failing. Every day after school I went to his shop - just a block away from my home - to do what I could to help. He taught me how to do everything to shine and repair shoes except how to sow a new sole onto the shoe. That machine had one speed and you had to keep pace or risk damaging the shoe - I never did master it! Come summer he could no longer come to the shop so I would open it, do what repairs I could, and then take whatever money came in to his home - ten blocks away (talk about shoe-leather express)! Papa passed that summer and it was decided to sale everything to another Cobbler - an end of a family era. While I'd not become a *mender of soles*, I remain forever thankful for the heritage of Faith - from my Papa - that has called me to be a *saver of souls!* Love and miss you, Papa!

