

June 24, 2018

Nativity of St. John the Baptist

**St. Paul the Apostle Church**

91 E. Main St., Norwalk

[www.stpaulchurch.org](http://www.stpaulchurch.org)

**Parish Office**

Monday - Thursday

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday

8:00 am - 12:30 pm

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### From Our Pastor:

I am grateful to Bishop Thomas for coming to our parish last Sunday to celebrate the 1:30 Spanish Mass with us. It was the first Mass he was able to celebrate publicly since having rotator-cuff surgery, and he asked if he could come and celebrate that Mass with us.

The Mass was three times the normal attendance; very close to 400 people. In the congregation were people not only from Norwalk but also from Willard who had lost family members to the ICE raid on Corso's two weeks prior and a fair number of our Anglo parishioners too. At present count it seems that something like 31 of our parishioners were taken in the raid, including the parents of three of the children who attend KinderCasa at the ECC.

His homily focused on two words in the middle reading of the day's Mass, "home" and "courageous." While his words were eloquent, his message boiled down to something simple yet necessary to say – no matter which country as a political territory may be our home, we are all Catholics; the Church is our home no matter where we are. He kept returning to Paul's words, "We walk by faith, not by sight," and so must be "always courageous" here in our home as we make our way to our eternal home to be with the Lord. And as we make that walk by faith, all we fellow members of our Catholic faith help and support each other on our way.

He came to the Gathering Space after Mass and after a period of Q and A, he met with each family individually and prayed with them in a huddle, personally. That's all we can do at this point, he told a 16-year old boy who broke down, asking what he could do to save his mother. But that's what we must do, and what he did with family after family. Altogether he spent four hours with us.

To repeat what I said in my own homily earlier that day, I am grateful that so many people, both within our parish and outside it, have been moved by compassion and have come forward to simply do what they can do to help, to bring some good into this situation. We have received call after call from people wanting to do something, car after car bringing supplies, many people being very generous with monetary donations at the office, in the collection, online through the parish website.

At that point, as those examples reveal, I was thinking mostly in terms of material help. The Bishop came as a shepherd to comfort and pray with fellow human beings who are hurting, and that's most needed too.

Ultimately he reiterated what it seems nearly everyone on all sides of the issue agrees upon, that our current immigration laws and current enforcement policies in their present form are broken and unsustainable. The current process is manifestly unfair, on purpose, to those from Mexico and South America; many people do not realize that due to the much tighter quotas imposed on them than on immigrants from other countries, it currently is taking over 17 years for their applications for legal immigration to be even considered!

Let's pray both for our fellow Catholics who are suffering now and for a fair immigration policy so others won't have to in the future.

*Msgr. Ken*

