



SAINTS SIMON & JUDE

8 CAVANAUGH COURT | WEST CHESTER, PA 19382-7998
610-696-3624 | FAX: 610-696-3971 | EMAIL: rectory@simonandjude.org

Greetings Parishioners of Saints Simon and Jude Parish,

As we welcome every person of good will to our spiritual family, I am reminded of what Psalm 90 calls us to do: "In every age, O Lord, You have been our refuge and our strength". I turn to the Lord. I encourage you to do the same. May we fulfill the call of baptism and joyfully give 'All Glory and Praise to God'.

As Missionary Disciples we are graced by the Holy Spirit to pray, forgive, challenge new growth and attend to the needs of the poor. The Works of Mercy unfold every day at Saints Simon and Jude. Humbly may we all strive to imitate God's love, thus, living in the joy of wisdom. This is the gospel of Jesus in our beautiful Catholic faith.

With this call to discipleship, we acknowledge the most significant blessing: the gift of life. As pastor, consider for a moment my belief, that your life is beautiful. Consider responding to beauty with gentleness. I give witness that conception is beautiful and therefore, I choose to live a 'Culture of Life'. Consider that gifts of relationship, romance, marriage, vocation and family come from love. God is love. My point, may "We the People" revisit freedom's beauty.

In our 'Culture of Life', we take 'safety seriously'. We have made upgrades in every building to strengthen security. In the most practical order, we regularly communicate with law enforcement. Our active and retired police and veterans are keeping a cautious eye. Everyone has a vested interest in safety. Therefore, standing shoulder to shoulder, we are instruments of peace.

Faithful stewardship begins with our morning meditation on the person Jesus. Our prayer at home calls us to worship and thus celebrating the sacraments. Truly, many parishioners receive the Holy Eucharist on Sunday; and we yearn to do so ever more deeply. In this most holy reception, we experience the encounter of our lives: 'Falling in love with Jesus'. May our faith be a living witness inviting others to the altar of the Lord. So moved by faith, parishioners ask: 'How can I help'? I witness your desire to make our church, school, PREP and CYO a place of welcome and welcome back. From your very heart, you help carry the burden of others. Consequently, your community involvement and generosity is remarkable.

Then, thankfully you ask: how are our donations being used? We use your donations to support our mission of worship, sacraments, sacred scripture, faith-formation, education, visitations, youth sports, senior activities and tithe. Our bills are paid. We are responsible stewards. And because of YOUR care, we are strong. Every day we pray for you and your families and will continue to do so until our last breath.

I kindly ask your continued support of your parish
with a donation that makes sense to you.

Sincerely, In Jesus, Mary and Saint Joseph, Fr. Michael J. Gerlach. July 2022.