

"A REFLECTION OF OUR LORD WITHIN US"

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With so many of our first responders, Police, EMS, nurses, doctors, fire departments putting their own lives at risk to help others during these unprecedented times, we are again in awe of their bravery courage and fortitude, as they put aside their own safety and their very lives to save others. We offer them our respect, and our thanks. We are also mindful of how we receive our gifts of strength. We respect the many gifts that God has given us, with one of the greatest gifts being the compassion to help our fellow man.

After all, what is it about these wonderful people that allows them to run into the fire and the danger disregarding their own welfare? Strength such as this surely comes from the Lord, and it brings to mind (*John 15:13*), "*Greater love hath no man than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends*".

Why is it that in a persons' darkest moments, by the simple act of reaching out to help another, their own spirits are lifted? It is because Jesus lives inside each one of us, and when we look outside of ourselves to help another, we are feeling that glory of God, and it's wonderful...Remember, (*John 15:5*) "*I am the vine, you are the branches*", reach out and feel the glory that is the Lord!

Ironically, our Respect Life Committee at St. Anthony of Padua in Rocky Point was going to honor our first responders with a beautiful Mass and celebration this June. Postponing it due to the health crisis was unfortunate. But, now, I think how much more meaning will this Mass have, how much greater will this celebration be after our heroes have fought through this crisis to help keep us all safe. I know that Jesus is continually blessing us, and them in every possible way, and guiding the first responders with his wisdom and strength.

Let's always remember to pray to St. Michael, and remember,

(*John 15:12*) "*Love one another as I have loved you*"
