

# Pastor's updates

January 1, 2021



## Things you may want to know this week

- 1. “Man proposes, God disposes!”** I was scheduled to take my six-month Sabbatical starting January of this New Year 2021. My plan was to be in Rome for the first part and then go to the Philippines to help out and be a part of the 500th anniversary of the Philippine Christianization. When I was asked by the Archbishop to move to St. Roberts as your new pastor, one of my questions was what will happen to my Sabbatical. I feel bad leaving a place that you just came in. I was told I could still proceed as planned. Then Covid-19 pandemic hit the world. Lately, I received a letter from the Archdiocese that besides the fact that the sabbatical program in Rome has not been reopened, the Archdiocese is struggling financially at this time. So, here I am stuck! But no regrets, it's God's will and I am happy just to be here.
- 2. New Year - a taste of something new!** Just before the New Year, the reconditioned St. Robert's signage in front of the church has been reinstalled. Before I could even express my undying gratitude to these wonderful men who shared their time, energy and expertise, one of them called me telling me that they would also take care of the landscaping of the area that would cost the parish nothing. I am in awe! Something to look forward to!
- 3. New Year - a taste of something new!** The school and church acquired the services of a new cleaning company, The City Wide Facility Solutions. Other parishes in the Archdiocese have been using this company. With this company and the new service agreement, we are looking at a two thousand dollars savings for the school and more or less a thousand dollar savings for the church. So far, I have been impressed and satisfied with their cleaning that includes disinfecting the pews and other stuff used for mass.
- 4. New Year - a taste of something new!** A new faucet has been installed in one of the rooms in our convent occupied by the Culture Project young missionaries. Russell, our local plumber whom we usually call, came to the rescue with just a short notice. He told me it was his last job for the year 2020. Also, a technician from Northern Services also came to check the heating system of the convent. Our young missionaries have just been using some space heaters to keep them warm this cold season.
- 5.** I would like to say a personal 'Thank you' for your Christmas greetings, your beautiful Christmas cards and generous Christmas gifts and especially the presents of your presence. Sr. Sheral wrote me a beautiful note: **“IN YOUR HONOR, WE'VE GIVEN WARM JACKETS TO WOMEN AND MEN WHO ARE HOMELESS IN SAN BRUNO TO OFFER SOME COMFORT AND HOPE ESPECIALLY DURING CORONAVIRUS.”** It warms my heart to know that people are kept warm not with the coats and jackets that you gave but by the love, care and generosity you expressed. The mission of St. Robert de Turlande, our patron saint, continues!

# **FAZnotes**

**(Father Arnold Zamora)**

**January 1, 2021**



## **Dear parishioners and friends of St. Roberts,**

My note might be long, but I just want to share this short article written by Melody Mason entitled: “Give God the Pen this New Year.”

Usually when we pray it’s like we give God a huge sheet of paper with all our requests, wishes, wants, desires, needs, and dreams written on it. We hand this sheet up to God, and say, “Dear God, here are the things I need and hope for. Can you please give me Your signature of approval and blessing on these requests?”

It’s not wrong to ask God for what we desire and need. The Bible tells us to do this. But perhaps there is also more that God is waiting for us to do. What if we gave God a blank sheet of paper with our signature at the bottom and said, “Dear God, I give You the pen! Whatever You want to write on this paper, whatever it is that You think I need or that would be best for my life, I gladly accept. Not my will but Thy will be done!”

Jeremiah 33:3 says, “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”

It was back in 2007 when I started praying this prayer, giving God the pen to write upon my life paper whatever He thought best. Since then, radical things have happened in my life and ministry. Not only have I gone so much deeper in my own personal relationship with God, but I’ve also seen God do amazing things I never imagined possible.

Many of my closest friends have similar experiences. One walked away from a lucrative career as a lawyer. He was making \$144,000 a year at the time he left it all to become an evangelist. “Now,” he says with a smile, “my greatest goal is to become part of the 144,000.” He travels the world doing ministry and has seen God work many miracles in answer to his prayers. There are countless other stories just like his.

I heard it once said that surrender may seem difficult, but refusing to let go of the pen of our life is like a little seashell by the ocean refusing to give up its precious supply of water for fear that the ocean will not have enough with which to replenish it.

As we start this near year, I challenge you to give God the pen. He can do far more than you can dream or imagine with your life.

Let us all give the pen to God and surrender our hopes and plans for this year!

**HAPPY HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE! GOD BLESS U ALL THIS 2021!**

***Fr. Arnold***