

Bishop E-news: 9/7/18

Buon Giorno: Greetings from Rome. I am currently at a new (some people call it 'baby') bishop's conference. I'm with about 120 bishops from around the world, including eleven from the United States. This is mandatory for new bishops.

Prayers: Before the conference started, I went to the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. She is the patron saint of our diocese. I spent a great deal of time there, praying for our diocese and asking Our Lady to bring healing and peace to those in pain and suffering in any capacity.

Afterwards, I stopped by the Church of St. Augustine. His mother, Saint Monica, is buried there. She is the patron saint of conversions for those that have left the faith. From my experience, having a child leave the faith is one of the most painful things parents go through. I prayed that St. Monica will be with those who are praying for their child's return to the faith.

After praying, I treated myself to a gelato. It was really good!!!

Abuse: The theme of one of our conferences was on evangelization. During our small group, we had a heart-felt discussion on how it can be difficult to evangelize with the abuse scandal in the Church. It really weighed heavy on all of us. We especially lifted up in prayer those who have been hurt by the Church. I wrote an article for the Register on this topic, (including some concrete plans moving forward); it will come out next week.

Manhattan: Be assured of my prayers for the people most affected by the flood. I appreciate so much Fr. Frank and the people of St. Thomas More opening up their buildings to those in need.

Good news: Pamela Sullivan, who worked in our diocese for the last five years, and recently took a position at a law firm, has agreed to work part-time for our diocese again. She is well respected and will continue to be a great asset for us.

Saying good-bye: Many of you know Clara, the executive secretary for the last 20 years or so to our bishops. She is retiring at the end of next week. She has done a wonderful job and we are grateful for her devotion and love of the diocese.

Thank you: Once again, thank you for your warm hospitality and kindness toward me. I really enjoy it here! It's been a joy to meet so many of you.

Birthday: Tomorrow, September 8, the Church celebrates the Birth of our Blessed Mother. We thank God for giving us Mary to be with us. It is said that the two most important times in life are "now" and "the hour of our death." We thank Our Blessed Mother for being with us during these times.

Be assured of my love and prayers,
+ Bishop Jerry Vincke

Saint quotes of the week from Saint John Chrysostom (feast day is September 13):

"The waters have risen and severe storms are upon us, but we do not fear drowning, for we stand firmly upon a rock. Let the sea rage, it cannot break the rock. Let the waves rise, they cannot sink the boat of Jesus. What are to fear? Death? Life to me means Christ, and death is gain."

"When we teach our children to be good, to be gentle, to be forgiving (all these are attributes of God) to be generous, to love others, to regard this present age as nothing, we instill virtue in their souls, and reveal the image of God within them."

"Enter into the Church and wash away your sins. For here there is a hospital and not a court of law. Do not be ashamed again to enter the Church, be ashamed when you sin, but not when you repent."