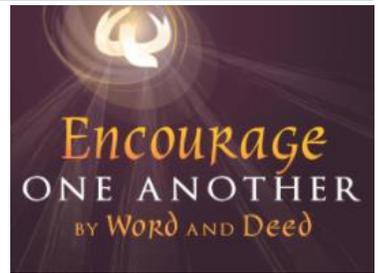


FROM OUR PASTOR



This is our **2021 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL COMMITMENT WEEKEND!** Once a year we are asked to make a commitment to support the work of our diocesan programs and ministries which provide services that no single parish could provide on its own. By participating in the BLA, we reveal our gratitude for our many blessings, as we serve our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the diocese. If you haven't done so already, it is my hope that each of you will make a pledge to



the BLA this year. If your circumstances allow, please give prayerful consideration to making a sacrificial pledge to the BLA this year, to possibly make-up the difference for families who, because of their particular situation at this time of Covid-19, are understandably not able to give anything this year. Due to Covid-19 restrictions that limit Mass attendance, for this year's BLA Commitment Weekend, we have created new methods to donate to the BLA.

Option 1 (In person)

Each parish family/household can take an in-pew pledge envelope located in the hymnal racks. The pledge envelope can be filled out when I walk you through the in-pew process during Mass. Envelopes can then be dropped in a designated bin on the way out of the church when the Mass has ended.

Option 2 (In person and Live-stream)

QR codes (image to the right) are printed on the BLA in-pew pledge envelope and also located on our website adjacent to our live-stream Mass links. Parishioners may simply scan the QR code using their smart phone cameras and enter in their pledge information on the linked secure diocesan site during the in-pew pledge process during Mass or from your home as soon as possible.



Option 3 (In person and Live-stream)

Parishioners can text "**BLA**" to **703-260-9800** on a mobile device and receive a link that they can tap to be directed to the BLA giving page and enter in their pledge information during the in-pew pledge process during Mass or from home as soon as possible. This phone number is also printed on the in-pew pledge envelopes as well as located on our website adjacent to our live-stream Mass links.

On behalf of the numerous ministries and individuals that will benefit from your generosity and support, I am deeply grateful for your 2021 BLA contribution. Remember, no amount is too little as St. Theresa of Calcutta often said, *"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving."*

Christ's blessings ~ Fr. Bashista

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Listen to What Circumstances Tell You

Whoever tries to find interior stillness and cohesion will, little by little, obtain a different relationship to things and circumstances. Silence, prayer, and the affirmation of your interior life make you see things differently. You learn to wonder and admire God's creation. You sense a lot of things in their more original circumstances.

To have a meditative or contemplative view of the world primarily involves a listening and receptive attitude that lets things and circumstance be what they are. You observe them without trying to control them.

The one who constantly tries to control his or her existence will never live a contemplative life of prayer. To live contemplatively entails letting events and circumstances speak their own messages.

If you take a walk in the woods, you are not to consider what you will "get out of it." Let the woods come to you as they are, let them impact you. The woods are not there to serve you; you make yourself receptive to what the woods will communicate to you. You let them speak their message. Such a silent and perceptive encounter with created reality takes practice – practicing to become selfless, perceptive, and quiet. It is good if you, from time to time, make yourself rest – calm down your restless thoughts and emotions – so you can become silent and free. It is the only way you can let the good, the beautiful, and the sacred in creation enter.



This is the Day the Lord Has Made, © Liguori Publications www.liguori.org Used with Permission