

EL POST DEL PARROCO

HOME

Dear Parish Family:

A few Saturdays ago we decorated the rectory (the parish house) for Christmas. With the limited time between Thanksgiving and Christmas, we barely took down the decorations from Thanksgiving. We do not do a lot of decorating but have a tree, some roping, and usually one of Santa's elves puts a wreath on our door at some point before Christmas. Then, we're good to go! Some friends came and lent a hand which made it go a lot quicker.

It has definitely felt a little more like home these days.

As I was coming through our kitchen this morning, I walked by some of the decorations that have significant meaning to us at Christmas...and can open for each of us some of the deeper invitations of Christmas.

As you enter our home, you would see a white ceramic Nativity set. It was given to us as a gift by a member of our staff. His daughter died in a terrible accident nearly two years ago and the set belonged to her. Each time I walk by it's a reminder to say a prayer for Lindsay and her family. For me, it is a reminder too that this time of year is not always filled with the feelings of "Joy to the World". It can be a tough time, for sure. But we need this encounter. Remember, God does not break into the world because he thought everything was going great. He broke into the world because he knew we needed him. In our brokenness and pain we need him even more.

Then, if you walked into our dining room, you'd see a Christmas Village. Seminarian Nick has shared that with us this year. It's pretty beautiful as you can see in the picture. One can imagine people coming together with the "spirit of the season". It can be so easy in the midst of these to just long to get to Christmas and say, "Ok, glad that's over!" This is not what we are about, though. We are Christmas people all year long, always trying to remember this God who wants to be so close and so intimate with each one of us.

Then in the other corner is the Nativity set that has belonged to Msgr. Vlaun's family for over 100 years. It's definitely the most delicate of the sets and

this year some reconstruction had to be done on one of the pieces. You can feel the history of this set. It has told a story for many years as does the story of Christmas we come to celebrate today. We also can acknowledge some places in need of reconstruction in our lives. We're works in progress for sure!

(By the way, I brought two inflatables from my mom's house and Fr. Andres has a star in his window. We have some work to do for next year!)

You are in a place I hope you can call home. The story of Christmas is an invitation to draw nearer and to return to our God who has created, formed, and loves us into being. It is a story of encounter and intimacy, of surrender and surprise, one that links to the stories of our own lives. It is about finding a home with God and his church.

Can I suggest there are few places as good to call home as St. Brigid's? With a special awareness of many who may be returning to the Church today or visiting, you are in a place with a deep history of hospitality and welcome. Here is a place that is accompanying and helping those who know pain and struggle. Here is a place where we work hard to live in a spirit of joy, a spirit of Christmas all year long.

This parish has become my home since I arrived here in June of 2022. The people here have welcomed and accepted, supported and challenged, lifted me up and put up with me in the past 30 months. They'll do the same for you too!

So, please take some time to look through this bulletin for some ideas of ways you can make this your home, first by coming to pray with us and journey together - in good times and bad - always confident in the God who is walking with us. Maybe, also, by offering your gifts and talents or by allowing us to help and support you? These efforts make a place feel like home.

Please pray for me. I promise the same.



Feather

