

*The following is from Fr. Dela Cruz's flock notes dated November 6, 2020:*



## **A MESSAGE FROM FR. LEANDRO 'Lines' DELA CRUZ**

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

We thank and praise God for the relatively peaceful elections. As we vigilantly await for the final and official results, we continue to pray for peace. It remains important for us to remain engaged in the process beyond Election Day, to hold whoever gets elected accountable not only to us as individuals, but to the common good.

Our country is deeply divided and along many lines. Often in those partisan and ideological divisions, common ground seems impossible. And yet, that is what we as a church, as a community of faith, are called upon to create. In this our parish, are people from different perspective - Republicans, Democrats, Independents, and more. We know that labels such as liberal, conservative, progressive and traditional fail to capture the totality of any one person. What does capture who we are is the fact that we all belong here in the church of God, part of the beloved community of St. Ann's, each made in the likeness of our Creator. The greatest gift we can give to our world today is to model what it is like to be a community where all are welcome, sinners and saints - where life is sacred, and where we work together to bring about the common good by seeking common grounds.

A great news we have in church is that our camera has arrived earlier than expected and is now installed. By next week we might have an initial trial of it on Mass live-streaming. The TV monitors have also been set up already. I am hoping that these would be ready for use as well by next week so that when our celebration of the Thanksgiving Mass for Blessed Michael Joseph McGivney's beatification comes, its technological functions are perfectly flawless (with crossed fingers, I pray).

At this point of time, allow me to thank all of our generous camera and TV donors - Romy & Mona Buerano, Tony Oña, Xavier & Tessy Antony, Larissa Buerano Winter, Fred & Judy Angeline, Tim & Marion Doherty, Simbang Gabi Choir, Mike Powers, Vesubio & Carolina Diao, Ruben & Myrna Santos, Stephen & Nina Laubach, Elisa Gan, Mario & Marissa DeGuzman, Dan & Josie Johnson, Gaudy & Terry Albano, Dr. Martin & Joy Lansang, Fe Laraya, Sam & Beth Mil, Christie Regan. My special thanks goes to Mike Diao who had been very faithful, well dedicated and committed in putting all these things together and had been servicing our live-streaming ever since. Thanks, of course, to our initial techy crew who made a lot of wise input on this matter. I'd like to make special mention to Dominic Ambrosio. For all the good help of everyone, may the good Lord bless you.

Now that the audiovisual is up, the next challenge for us is to seek for additional techy savvy volunteers who could help in its operation and more productive use of it. Please get in touch with me, Salvatore or Alessandra if interested at 609.882.6491 x 112 or 609.477.0112 or 609.882-8077 x 220, respectively.

As our numbers are constantly increasing at all Mass times, we might need to add another one on Sunday. Mass times may change to 9am, 10.30am and 12pm. I will announce at all Masses when these become effective hopefully when the new Liturgical Calendar opens on the First Sunday of Advent.

Our office is closed on November 11th, Wednesday, in celebration of Veterans' Day. We thank and salute our courageous men and women who serve and protect our country. Together with all the faithful departed and deceased loved ones of ours, let us remember in our prayers the fallen members of our armed forces. If you still have your ALL SOULS envelopes with you, I encourage you to fill them out with the names of your beloved and place them on our violet box by the altar in order to be remembered and prayed for throughout this month of November.

Let us continue to be vigilant and not forget that the virus is still out there. Cases are on a rise. Let us do what we must to continue to be safe and healthy. The pandemic trifecta has helped to keep us safe and healthy- wear mask properly, sanitize and social distance.

God Loves You!