



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

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Our Lord Jesus could also be called “the World’s Greatest Salesman.” He has all the good qualities of a person who believes in what they’re selling, so to speak, and none of the not so good characteristics often attributed to a salesperson. His “product” of course is “the Kingdom of God.” He tells us it is nearer than we think.

In the process, He was actually selling Himself, as the perfect actualization of that kingdom. He made His hearers understand that this kingdom is such that positivity is the law of the land and undying love is its hallmark. In other words, He was “selling” God back to those who had abandoned Him. How good He was at His work shows in the way even His first listeners were so quickly able to leave behind much of their old life and walk with Him.

We are all “hard-wired” to be attracted by truth and the obvious conviction of an authentic truth-teller. We “buy into” their wares with ease. Is it any wonder that Simon and Andrew, James and John dropped their fishing nets to follow the Divine Straight Shooter? And aren’t you glad that you did too? What we have gained from this magnetism of the Master is the joy of having Someone to believe in. That cannot be taken away from us by anyone, especially the “seller of lies” who was formerly an archangel. That is why it’s best for us to remember: We are God’s.

We have successfully finished our Novena to St. Joseph to end abortion. I thank everyone who participated. Let us continue to pray for the end of abortion and the propagation of the Gospel of life, from conception to natural death. Human life is sacred in every stage and in any condition or situation one is in. This intention is included in all our parish Masses, please include it in yours.

I encourage you to join our Bishop David M. O’Connell in his Mass of Thanksgiving to God for the Gift of Human Life next Friday, January 29th at 11:00 AM on [youtube.com/trentondiocese](https://www.youtube.com/trentondiocese).

The Holy See issues a Plenary Indulgence (total remission of punishment due to sin) to those who will participate in the March for Life events, either in person or virtual (online, TV, radio). Kindly check the message from Bishop O'Connell on the box below with a detailed explanation of this wonderful grant of Plenary Indulgence. Due to the pandemic, the diocese and our parish will not be sending a delegation to the March for Life event this year.

The first condition clearly mentioned by the Bishop in order to receive a Plenary Indulgence is Sacramental Confession. It only means how important it is in the life of a Catholic believer. Thus, our 2nd graders in the Religious Education Program are now being prepared for their First Reconciliation. Schedules are set in different dates to enforce sanitary safety rules due to Covid. Please pray for a meaningful experience of God's mercy and forgiveness to our little ones as they approach the Sacrament this January, 27 and 30, February 3, 6, 10, and 13, 2021.

To date, I am happy to report that our campaign for Christmas gifts to support our 2020 revenue in order to bridge the 35% deficit caused by Covid has totaled \$54,493.50. Please know that I am sincerely grateful to all of you especially to those who went out of their way to generously respond to this Christmas campaign. Thank you so very much. May this practice of generosity become our parish tradition not only on Christmas and but also on Easter. Once again, I'd like to say that it is such a delight to serve as pastor of this outstanding and remarkable faith community of St. Ann.

The 2020 tax contribution statement request form is now available. Kindly print and fill out the form published in the weekly stewardship/bulletin and submit it to the parish office.

Let us continue to pray for the end of the pandemic. Let us also carry out our prayers with charitable actions- avoid people, especially crowds; sanitize constantly and wear mask properly. If the vaccine is available to you, please take it.

God Loves you.