

From the Desk of Fr. Jerry

October 20, 2024

Dear Friends,

“We sit uneasy these days,” says Fr. Lou Cameli, the Cardinal’s Delegate for Formation and Mission. “There’s considerable social unrest, economic hardship for many people. There are natural disasters like fires in the West and hurricanes in the South. And then there is an election.”

Although these words were first spoken prior to the election in 2020, they are still an apt description of the uneasiness many of us feel today. Today we might even add to the list: gun violence; taking innocent lives, including the attempt on the former president; clashes between groups expressing their first amendment rights; multiple wars.

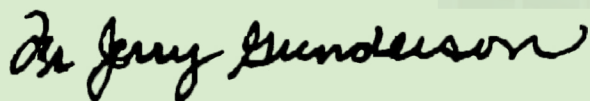
Back in 2020 and even more now the “complex mix of challenges threatens our ability to think clearly.” In response, Fr. Cameli shares some reflections directed to Catholics and other people of good will in a 12-minute video about Catholics and voting. You can find at: <https://pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/faithful-citizenship>

A flyer was left in our facilities that listed St. Patrick as a sponsor of a “patriotic rosary.” at St. Joseph Parish in Libertyville. This was a misrepresentation as approval was not sought and was not given. The rosary is a devotion based on the mysteries of the life of Jesus. Introducing other themes is a distraction from that focus.

I would like to express appreciation to those who came to learn more about Friends of Chikwa Parish last Tuesday evening. I think the video depicted some of the challenges people in Eastern Zambia are facing daily: harsh living conditions, food insecurity, lack of clean water and electricity. The networking of Chikwa parish, World Vision, and Friends of Chikwa Parish has had a huge impact on the development of the area. With your help we could do even more. In case you missed the video, I have posted the video on the website: www.friendsofchikwaparish.org

I am pleased that several teens have expressed an interest in learning more about the Catholic Faith and have enrolled in the OCIA program. It will involve both online and in person meetings. Any teen who is interested is invited to join the group which plans to meet between the 10:00 AM and 11:45 AM Masses on Sundays.

680 persons were counted as attending the Masses the first week of October. The official Archdiocesan October Count continues through October 27th.



Fr. Jerry Gunderson