



Dear Friends,

Jesus says in today’s Gospel from Matthew: “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” We know these words. We hear them often. But do we really ponder them, pray about them, and challenge ourselves to truly do what the Lord asks? Even in the Scriptures we hear that not everyone was able to accept these words and left Jesus. They could no longer abide by His words.

We all have experienced taking up the cross, **our** cross, for Jesus. We have had to stand up for what is right, to witness our Faith in God, to defend someone being berated because of their looks or background or status.

Let us pray that our Faith may continue to grow stronger so that we can be good disciples of the Lord. May the grace of the Holy Spirit guide us today and always.

God bless you.

Father Fred

+++++

Next weekend (Sept. 9 & 10) the second collection is for the Retirement Benefit Trust for Priests of the Diocese of Oakland. This is ***not*** the same as the December collection for retired religious men and women. The collection next week is to help maintain the existing Trust, which provides priests who have served in the Diocese of Oakland during their retirement. The number of priests receiving this benefit is growing as more men retire. But not all have put in 35 years of service (the years required to receive full funding). Some priests were ordained later in life. Some priests have come from other dioceses and countries and wouldn’t receive full funding, yet would face the same expenses after retirement that we all do.

This collection will assist in keeping the Trust up to meet the needs of the future. This is a wonderful way to show your appreciation for the priests who have dedicated their lives to serving you in Mass, in the Sacraments, in counseling, and in many other ways.

Please be generous in your donation to this collection next weekend.