We, the parish of Saint Andrew Catholic Church, are a community of disciples of Jesus Christ, upholding one another on the journey of faith. Formed by the Word, Sacraments, and Prayer, we strive to live the spiritual and corporal works of mercy in our relationships, near and far. With joyful outreach, we invite all to the beauty of faith in Jesus Christ.

OFFICE HOURS: Until further notice, the Parish Office is CLOSED.

In accordance with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and Archbishop Nelson Perez, public Sunday Masses will resume on June 6th, 2020.

**We will provide information regarding schedule changes and protocols for Masses early next week.**

*** Daily Masses HAVE NOT been approved to resume at this time. ***

*** All programs/events remain POSTPONED indefinitely, due to potential of community spread. ***

*** Saint Andrew School will remain closed until the 2020-21 Academic School Year. ***
I have never won a big prize in a chance contest. Small ones, yes, but nothing really exciting such as you see from time to time on TV. But you can bet that if I ever did, I’d show it.

Those thoughts came to me after reading this weekend’s Readings. I can easily imagine the faces of the Apostles in those Pentecost scenes. Chronologically, the Gospel section happens first. It is the evening of the first Easter, and the dejected and frightened Eleven are suddenly stunned to see their Master fully alive and glowing with an enhanced appearance. Not only that they hear His familiar voice wish them peace. No scolding. No reminding them of their disappearance from the crucifixion scene. He even lets them see for themselves the scars left on Him from the ordeal of the crucifixion. Their eyes must have widened; their brows furrowed; mouths agape; their whole bodies experiencing shock and relief at the same time. “He is alive!” they think, “and we know for sure that He was truly dead!”

Only days later, their faces again reflected fear and wonder when the wind roared and there appeared tongues of fire above their heads. But they also felt a surge of confidence within themselves. When they later started to preach, they were equally amazed to see that everyone in a mixed crowd understood what they said!

All of this sounds too good to be true as we hear about it again this Pentecost Sunday centuries later. Right now, this pandemic may have loosened our grip on optimism. Made us battered and bruised by statistics. Annoyed by facemasks and false distances from each other. Anyway, we have not experienced tongues of fire overhead or anything like it in the time since. Don’t be too sure.

Have we not at least felt a touch of that fire when we know that we have helped lead someone to embrace the faith? Have we not been happily surprised when a complete stranger to the faith understands what we are talking about as we explain a teaching of our Church, and see them nod in appreciation? There is a certain deep joy in hearing a person suddenly acknowledging Jesus as their Lord and Savior, is there not? These are wonderful happenings not to be ignored. We’re actually watching the Holy Spirit at work.

Jesus is truly alive, and the sending of His Holy Spirit still lasts beyond our generation. This current time of testing we have endured since last winter will certainly produce lessons to be learned. But we will always have our own unique mission to make our risen Lord known. It’s our turn to be His Apostles for our time and place, always remembering a simple truth: that you and I can preach a better sermon with our lives than with our lips. Happy Pentecost!

- Rev. Leonard N. Peterson
Kenneth Cavara and his family have been parishioners at St. Agnes in West Chester, Pennsylvania since 1982. Kenneth and his six siblings attended St. Agnes Parochial School. After St. Agnes School, he attended Salesianum School (‘99).

Kenneth graduated from West Chester University (‘05) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. After West Chester University, Kenneth taught English as a second language in Taiwan from 2006-2008. When he returned to the United States, Kenneth began a career in medical sales which relocated him to Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

He entered St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in 2014.

Kenneth enjoys reading, movies, travelling, and all sports especially soccer, tennis, and skiing. He is also a lifelong Philadelphia sports fan.

**WELCOME NEW DEACON KEVIN CAVARA!**

Once again Saint Charles Seminary and Archbishop Perez have honored our Parish with the assignment of another Transitional Deacon. Kenneth Cavara is an outstanding Seminarian soon to be ordained to the Sacred Diaconate on June 13. Deacon Kenneth will report to our Parish on June 6 to begin his Ministry with us. As always I am confident that Deacon Kenneth will find a very welcoming group of Parishioners, Staff and Priests. We have always felt privileged to be given this responsibility of mentoring a young man preparing for Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood. Please extend a warm welcome to him, and we will truly be blessed by the presence of a very fine young man.

In this transition, we say goodbye to Deacon Kevin Okafor, who will be leaving to prepare for his Ordination to the Priesthood on June 20. What a gift he has been to our Parish, and he will bring all of our love to other people in his future Ministry as Priest. Appreciation to Our Lord for these wonderful vocations to serve the Church!

Gratefully,
Monsignor Picard