

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



Last Wednesday evening, September 11, 2019, townsfolk gathered at the Jack D'Ambrosi Sports Complex, for the 18th anniversary of 9/11.

Jack was the only resident of Woodcliff Lake to die that day, he was a member of our parish community. Asked to say the Invocation at Wednesday's service, I truly struggled to find the right words. But the readings at Mass that morning helped me immensely. In one way or another, 9/11 remains with all of us who experienced it eighteen years ago, and it always present for those like Karen D'Ambrosi, Jack's widow, and her daughters Jacqueline and Emily. It is also a painful day for our neighbors, the families of Joseph Keller and John Bocchi.

Here is the Invocation that was read:

"We celebrated the liturgy this morning, as we do every morning, at Our Lady Mother of the Church. The readings from Scripture for this day included the following lines:

Blessed are you who are poor in spirit...

Blessed are you who are weeping...

In the light of this passage, let us now invoke God's blessing. Let us Pray.

Lord God, we ask your blessing as we gather here, 18 years after the terror attacks of 9/11/2001.

We have been made poor.

We have wept.

We have suffered acts of hatred.

9/11 witnessed what the human heart is capable of, at its worst, but moreover at its best. Light always conquers darkness. Love and truth will always triumph over hate.

Our strength has been forged through sacrifice.

As we mark this solemn anniversary, may God

Bless us with gratitude for those who have loved us.

Bless us with a selfless spirit.

Bless us to respond to the needs of others.

May God comfort the poor in spirit, dry the eyes of those who weep.

We ask this of our Heavenly Father, who brings life out of death,

As we remember all those who lost their lives on 9/11, we pray also for those who died in the terror attack on Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988.

We believe our brothers and sisters are not gone, but await us on the shore of the Resurrection.

Almighty God, we invoke your blessing especially on our grieving friends and neighbors:

Karen, Jacqueline and Emily, Rose and John, Joseph, Sydney and Aaron, Mary Kay and Mary Lou, and the Bocchi family.

May the blessing of Almighty God, descend upon us, and remain with us, now and forever. Amen"

Fr. Sean