

From the Pastor's Desk

This week I find that I cannot write much as I am dumbstruck by the senseless murder of Charlie Kirk. I cannot believe that the temperature of political rhetoric has escalated to the point of such violence becoming "common" (over the last 5 years more than 10 political figures have been targeted). And do not be fooled...both sides are to blame. We must stop demonizing those with whom we disagree politically, or we run the very real risk of becoming less than human.

Requiescat in Pace

*The month of August became exceedingly busy both pastorally and personally, the former resulting in very full bulletins with much information to be disseminated. In any case, we cannot forget those parishioners who transitioned from time to eternity during that month. On August 12th, **Betty Petro** went to eternal life after a significant stay at Conemaugh Hospital. Betty lived four-score and nine years (she was 89), and during that time she took on many roles. She was first a loving wife to her husband Frank for sixty-seven years, a mother of five children, and grandmother and great grandmother to many more. She was passionate about her faith which included her passion for Catholic Education. Because of her efforts at organizing and running the parish bingo, Visitation School enjoyed many years of life. She was also a pillar of our worship here at Visitation until her last years. Betty, we pray that the angels lead you to Paradise and that you may rest in peace.*

*On August 16th, **Joan Marhefka**, another pillar of our parish, transitioned from life to the fullness of life. Joan herself lived for four-score and seven years (she was 87) and enjoyed a very full life indeed. In her generosity, she adopted four children who gave her several grandchildren. Joan was another advocate of Catholic education, serving as a teacher at Bishop McCort Catholic High School for 30 years teaching a wide variety of subjects ranging from creative writing to religion. Joan had a deep love of our parish and of the Blessed Virgin Mary as evidenced by her commitment to the rosary. We pray that Joan now enjoys the love, peace, and mercy of God for all eternity.*

