

*From Pontiff to Pew (continued):*

who read his letter to me in the parish; some victims of abuse, who ask to be heard; the inmates who were waiting for me in the prison; the young people filled with anxiety and aspirations; the migrants in the reception centres in the Canary Islands.

It was precisely there, in the Canary Islands – the final stop of the Journey – that I was offered a comprehensive insight. It was offered to me, on the one hand, by the very geographical location of that archipelago; and, on the other, by the reality of a local Church which welcomes a large number of forced migrants, mainly from Africa. We know that the migration phenomenon is complex and requires organic and coordinated action plans. But this interpretation opens up a different, broader perspective: it enables us to understand how we are called to reread the Gospel in today's world, exchanging the gifts of our respective cultures with each other, and in particular, the results produced in them by the fruitfulness of Christ's message. And one of these fruits is precisely dialogue between people and between peoples, an encounter in the spirit of fraternity, which enables us to discover and appreciate one another's values. This journey is not easy. It requires goodwill and God's help, but it is the path that leads to the civilization of love.

Dear brothers and sisters, the motto of this Apostolic Journey was "Alzad la mirada", "Lift up your gaze!" (cf. Jn 4:35). Jesus addressed these words to his first disciples, to teach them to see the desire for life, truth and fullness in people and in the crowds. The Lord repeats those words to me first, and by his grace I also experienced them during this Journey. Today, I would like to share this invitation with you: let us lift up our gaze! Let us learn from Jesus to look at our neighbour, at people and at the world, "through God's eyes", that is, with love, respect and compassion.

Finally, I want to thank all those who prayed for the success of this Apostolic Journey, especially the contemplative nuns, who, thanks be to God, are very numerous in Spain. Continue to pray, so that, by the intercession of the Virgin Mary, the seeds I scattered may bear abundant fruit. Thank you!

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*From the Pastor's Desk:*

As always, there is much going on behind the scenes here at Visitation Parish; however, there is nothing sensational to report. I'm still struggling with a great deal of pain, yet every day to get up and serve the Lord is a blessing. One thing did strike me this week when I was praying my Divine Office in the presence of the Blessed

Sacrament on Wednesday evening. The reading for the day on my table was the shortened form yet very powerful. It is the passage from Ephesians 3:20-21: "Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine; to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Now this in this closing benediction of the first part of the Epistle to the Ephesians expresses the author's ultimate praise to God. It affirms that God's power, active within believers, is sufficient to do far beyond what humans can request or conceive. The "power at work within us" refers to the Holy Spirit's enabling presence in the Christian life. The petition "to him be glory" is a prayer that God will be honored in the church and in Christ Jesus, not only in the present but "to all generations, forever and ever," indicating a timeless, eternal focus on God's glory. The "Amen" at the end is a personal affirmation of the truth and trust in God's ability and faithfulness.

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**Young Adult Group (18-39)** - Our next Theology on Tap is June 24th at the Boulevard Grill at 6pm with Sister Jacinta Miryam SSCJ speaking on Humility: The Foundation of all Virtues. Last month we had a great turnout of 50 people including at least 5 new members, including many Protestants and Agnostics. All young adults (18-39) are invited! There is no cost to attend. For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or geoffstumpo@gmail.com.

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**Public Rosary** - There will be a public rosary praying for our Nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday and saved by the precious Blood of Christ on Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at St. Clement Church and on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Vine Street Parklet in downtown Johnstown (meet on the Lincoln Street side of the parklet, not the Vine Street side).

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**2026 FESTIVAL at Our Lady of the Alleghenies Parish** - 608 Main Street Lilly, PA 15938: It will be on Sunday, July 19, 2026 from 11:00am to 5:30pm. There will be food vendors, beverages including beer, craft vendors, games for all ages, a bake sale, and a BASKET RAFFLE! Entertainment includes Charlene's School of Dance from 12:45pm to 1:30pm and Felix and the Hurricanes from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. All are welcome here!