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The Catholic Parish of  
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Battlefield Letter Five  
Epiphany 2020

*And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it (John 1:5)*

*Carissimi (Dearest Parishioners),*

I wish to extend my salutations to you and yours as we hold our candles high in the dark drama of these times. The True Church's 2,000 year march through history continues. A new and deadly front has opened against her on a global scale. Yet the Bride of Christ is indefectible and the power of the Crucified One is ultimately unassailable.

A Catholic parish is an instance of that Light. Never must the father of lies be permitted to have us think otherwise, for he is vapid and dissipating before the Light. He wages war on our minds, psyches and spirits, like a yapping cur. He seeks to exploit our vulnerabilities and divide us, leading the weak away from the might of the fold so as to devour us one by one. Yet we have at our disposal a veritable arsenal of spiritual weaponry with which to drive him back to the place prepared for him.

Consider some of the many victories of our parish which serve to remind us of the continuing importance of what we do and why we must persevere.

In the darkness our light shines. Right here in our two rural counties on the Virginian Northern Neck we have not broken before the darkness. Our humble parish, fighting for more than a century in mission territory, is still emanating the Light to the children of God.

The Most August Sacrifice of the Mass is being offered daily on our lovingly adorned altars dedicated to the True God. We are daily kneeling before His Eucharistic Majesty.

We are daily telling our beads and honoring Our Lady, the "fairest honor of our race."

We are consecrating ourselves to the great St. Joseph in this year specially dedicated to him, the Spouse of Mary and Terror of Demons.

Newly blessed statues of St Michael, the Prince of the Heavenly Host, stand in our sanctuaries like sentinels against the darkness.

We continue to kneel in the hushed quiet of the confessional, exposing our sins to the Light, emerging victorious over the darkness and readied for the next battle.

Our families, with God's creative blessing, are bringing forth new souls, babies who are being reborn in the newness of our baptismal fonts.

Our children are tasting the Bread of Life for the first time in Holy Communion. And dozens have been sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. Even as the darkness seeks to weaken us, we grow stronger.

We have united some of our parishioners in the grace of wedlock before God's holy altar.

In the midst of this year's darkness a new adult Catholic was brought into the fold in our parish. Others are studying and preparing for their own great moment of conversion. Our parents and catechists strive to pass on the Eternal Truths of our Holy Religion to our children and young people: the Truth that will dispel the wickedness of red ideology; the Truth that sets one free.

The sick and dying have had the healing unction traced upon their brows.

Our parishioners are feeding the hungry from our pantries; consoling the sorrowful as we visit them and reach out to them; healing the sick at our medical clinic.

Some of our parishioners have passed through the portals of death - always a mystery of sadness mingled with hope in God's Mercy. We have laid them to rest until the Day of Resurrection. We perceive victory in the defeat of our earthly tenure. Our parish grows ever stronger as we send them off to the permanency of the Church Triumphant.

Our watchers stand vigilant even as new families are streaming to our parish like reinforcements in the heat of battle. Only one option may be entertained as we fight, and that is victory. Our parish must emerge purified and glorious from this crucible.

*Laudetur Jesus Christus, nunc et semper! (May Jesus Christ be praised, now and forever!)*

God love you and bless you,

Father Francis de Rosa  
Pastor