

# FROM FR. DEO

August 30, 2026



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

God is good, all the time...All the time, God is good!

This Sunday's first reading from Jeremiah is one of my favorite passages because it captures the struggles of our relationship with God. Jeremiah does not hide his frustration, disappointment, and pain. He speaks openly to God, reminding us that faith is not always easy, and even those called by God can struggle, and feel like giving up. Have you ever had a "Jeremiah moment"—a time when you reached a breaking point and felt like giving up, perhaps even feeling "duped" by God? If so, you are not alone.

During my seminary internship in 2007, I was in charge of discipline, and one class gave me a very difficult time. They seemed to oppose everything I did, and I became so discouraged that I even questioned my vocation and considered leaving the priestly path. Then one morning, I found a note under my door from a student whom I had forgiven when he deserved to be sent home. It simply said, "Thank you for believing in me when I had given up on myself." That little note changed something in me. The problems did not disappear, but I remembered why I was there: not to seek success and control, but to love and believe in those kids who felt broken.

Jeremiah knew this struggle. Tired and discouraged, he wanted to stop speaking in God's name. He had faithfully proclaimed God's message, but he was faced with rejection and suffering instead. He even cried, "You duped me, O Lord." Yet he could not walk away, because God's word had become "like a fire burning in my heart."

In the Gospel, Peter wants a Messiah without suffering, glory without sacrifice, and victory without the Cross. But Jesus reminds him—and us—that discipleship is not always easy: "Whoever wishes to come after Me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me." We do not seek suffering; life brings enough crosses—illness, grief, disappointment, family struggles, and uncertainty. The question is not whether we will have crosses, but how we carry them. When we carry them with Christ, they find meaning, because we are not alone.

This speaks to anyone who has grown tired of living or serving—parents, family caregivers, healthcare workers, first responders, teachers, volunteers, priests, religious or anyone who has tried to do what is right and faced criticism instead. There will be moments when we say, "I can't do this anymore." Yet beneath our exhaustion, there may still be a small fire burning. That fire is God's grace which sustains us. We're called to be faithful to God, which means that even in our darkest moments, we do not allow that fire of God's Word and grace to go out. How do Jeremiah and the words of Christ speak to your life experience?

Parish News: It was a great joy to welcome back and enthrone Our Lady of Częstochowa in our church! I am grateful to all who joined us for such a beautiful and prayerful celebration.

We are now preparing for our Parish Social on Saturday, September 19. Please mark your calendars and consider attending this wonderful event, which brings our parish community together. It will begin after the 4:00 p.m. Mass that day. Note that on Saturday, September 19 there will not be a 5:00 p.m. Mass.

Finally, please keep Fr. McCarthy and his sister in your prayers as they travel to Ireland from August 24 through September 8. May the Lord grant them safe travels and a blessed time with family and friends.

*St Elizabeth of the Trinity, Pray for Us!*

See you in church!

In Christ,

Fr Deo