

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

Dear Families and Parishioners,

God doesn't talk. What happens with you and God, stays with God.

God encourages your growth; God forgives your failures. God doesn't talk.

The state can't subpoena God; God doesn't talk.

Last Sunday's Gospel saw Peter rebuked by Jesus. Peter "You are not thinking as God does but as human beings do." (Mark 8:33). Lord, advance our thinking!

The United States in which we live today is plagued by contention, painful memories, and sadness. No wonder Pope Francis buoys us up with his *Joy of the Gospel* and the *Joy of Love*. The Pope presents an antidote to the foul mood of today. If one focuses only on the pain of the past, the person withers and storm clouds pervade the face. Pope Francis serene and joyful countenance encourages.

Dag Hammarskjold, the second Secretary General of the United Nations, is widely considered an icon of superb leadership. Just two months before his death in a plane crash that remains unsolved, the following was written in his journal. That journal is now the classic *Markings* book.

July 19, 1961

Have Mercy
Upon us.
Have mercy
Upon our efforts,
That we
Before Thee,
In love and in faith,
Righteousness and humility,
May follow Thee,
With self-denial, steadfastness, and courage,
And meet Thee
In the silence.

Thou
Whom I do not know
But whose I am.
Thou
Whom I do not comprehend
But Who hast dedicated me
To my fate.
Thou

Dag Hammarskjold - *Markings*

Give us
A pure heart
That we may see Thee,
A humble heart
That we may hear Thee,
A heart of love
That we may serve Thee,
A heart of faith
That we may live thee,

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
September 30, 2018