

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Feast Day. Thank you for being part of this wonderful parish. May we continue to journey together. Be solid in faith, hope, and love. We remain *children of light*, and our merciful Lord awaits us in prayer and the sacraments. Let us live in the light and claim our baptismal inheritance in the kingdom of God here at St. Charles in Pikesville.

Who is... St. Charles Borromeo?

St. Charles Borromeo was born in 1538. Both his parents came from wealthy Italian families. He studied civil and canon law and used his income to help the poor. His maternal uncle became Pope Pius IV in 1560. At the age of 23, St. Charles himself was named archbishop of Milan.

At that time, a bishop often did not live in his own diocese. No bishop had lived in Milan for 80 years! Not only did St. Charles go to Milan, but he also served his people well. When famine struck, he brought in enough food to feed three thousand people every day for three months. When the plague struck, he personally ministered to the sick at the risk of his own life. He used his own funds to buy food, clothing, and medicine. He built hospitals and shelters. He was an active preacher.

Although St. Charles was in constant contact with plague victims, he did not get sick. He even survived being shot by a disgruntled priest!

St. Charles participated in the Council of Trent — a meeting of the world's bishops — and helped prepare the Tridentine Catechism, a systematic explanation of the Church's teachings. He knew that priests had to be well educated and so he established seminaries for the education of new priests.

St. Charles passed away at the age of 46. He was named a saint in 1610.

In art, St. Charles is dressed in red cardinal's robes and carries a cross which identifies him as an archbishop. Sometimes he is shown barefoot or with a hand raised in blessing. Our parish is named for him. He is the patron of bishops, catechists (including Religious Ed teachers!), seminarians, and people with stomach ailments.

May the Lord bless each and every one of you.

Fr. Canisius

