

As most of you know I was born and raised in Indianapolis.  
Other than the four years I spent in seminary in Cincinnati  
Until I moved to Jeffersonville in 2003, Indianapolis was the only place I called home.

Since 2003, Southern Indiana has been my home,  
but most of my family still lives in Indy.  
Now I would imagine that since 2003  
I have probably traveled to Indy on average a 2-3 times a month,  
So that means I have probably made that trip over 400 times in the last 14 years.  
I sometimes joke that I think my car knows the way and could make it on its own.

All of that is why I'm a little embarrassed to tell you this.  
A couple of months ago I left my brother's house on the Eastside of Indy  
and started the 1 hour, 49 minute, 23 second drive to Sellersburg.  
I got on I 70 West Bound at Emerson Ave...began passing through downtown  
where I would pick up 65 South.  
About twenty minutes later I was passing the airport  
Then the Plainfield exit and I remember distinctly thinking,  
I don't remember passing Plainfield before.  
But I kept driving not really thinking too much about it.  
I passed the Monrovia exit and the County Road 1100 West exit  
It wasn't until I hit the Cloverdale/Greencastle exit that it suddenly dawned on me  
that I wasn't on I 65...It took a sign for Terre Haute to make me realize where I was.

The more I think about my adventurous drive,  
the more I realize that John the Baptist is right.  
We really do need to pay attention, we need to be alert, we need to prepare the way  
Because it is far too easy to simply keep going the way we've been going.

I was in my own little world...thinking about whatever I was thinking about...  
daydreaming of whatever it was that I was daydreaming about...  
that I missed all the signs.

It never dawned on me that in those previous 400 trips I never drove by the airport,  
And while I remember passing Plainfield and thinking all this time  
and I never remember passing Plainfield...  
It was still not enough to make me stop and turn around.

St. John XXIII said when he called the Second Vatican Council that the Church needed  
to look at itself in the light of the changing world.

Pope Francis says we need to look at the Church through the light of the changing  
times.

What are those changing times that both of these men have challenged us to see?

23% of adult Americans when asked about their religious affiliation list none of the above as their choice.

Well over half of all Catholics do not go to Church each weekend, here in our parish it is about 60%.

As demographics change, more parishes are being closed in most of the US. In our diocese we have closed or merged about 25 parishes in the last 20 years.

What is the remedy for all this?

We Catholics need to pay attention...

We need to see the signs...the airports, the unfamiliar exits, the different landscape,  
And we need to acknowledge that we need to do something different.

I believe it begins with us as individuals and then it continues with us as a parish...

This is why we ask you to make a commitment to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

This is why we ask you to choose something to do in this New Year  
to grow in your faith.

Go Beyond Sunday: Stewardship of Your Time is an opportunity....

it certainly is not the only opportunity,  
but it is an opportunity for you to look at the road you're on,  
and if necessary make a course correction.

Last week we asked you to take one of those green sheets home  
and to fill out your commitment to Go Beyond Sunday in 2018.

Then you were to address an envelope to yourself and bring it back this weekend.  
In a moment, I will invite you to bring those forward and place them in the baskets  
Here in the front of the Church so that as a parish family,  
we can all Go Beyond Sunday.

If you haven't had a chance to fill yours out, you can do so now  
while the others are bringing theirs forward.