

## Meditation for June 12, 2024

### CONNECTIONS

Here, we are with the 2024 summer season upon us. How are you feeling about that? Changes in the family? Graduations? Summer trips? Weddings, etc. It's a pivotal time.

So much has happened recently—in our church, our diocese, the nation, and internationally. I have struggled to find a theme, a cohesive topic to share. Then, this afternoon—over a cup of tea, (where much becomes clear for me), I realized the focus.

I understood that one can only view connections from a personal perspective. Isn't that true? So, I invite you to think about your own connections; I do believe that is how understanding happens, and how we move forward. I'll share mine, but please think about your own. What connections resonate with you? I'd love to hear them.

Here are three of mine:

- **The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day**

I grew up against the background World War II. My beleaguered country could not win that war alone—despite the morale boosting of the prime minister's powerful speeches. So, when I heard President Biden's speeches this last week in France, I cheered their emphasis on connection. He said, "Isolationism didn't work 80 years go, and it doesn't work today." Our world, a global village, is shrinking. I hope we can work together to preserve a world worthy to pass on to our children.

- **Gun Violence Prevention**

Our diocese acknowledged Gun Violence Prevention last Sunday. Fr. Jared delivered some uncomfortable truths about our nation's history. With various measures, we supported our diocese at Hope. A protest march also took place in the area, and Bishop Deon gave an address. Those words were powerful. He once told me, "Opposition to sensible legislation is already defeated. They just don't know it." I How will you move forward? What is your perspective? The insert in our Sunday bulletin provides several steps. As a diocese, our churches connect to make a powerful statement, urging for sensible legislation.

- **Personal Connections**

Church: isn't that where we come to be loved, comforted, and strengthened for the journey? Every Sunday we see that in action. It is the fellowship that binds us. May it ever continue. This last Sunday, I saw two examples; allow me to share them. A member of the church shared disconcerting health news after the service. The priest prayed with the parishioner—what a comfort. A later visit to a homebound parishioner revealed a stressful situation with a relative. Steps were taken to seek a solution. We hope for a happy outcome to these and other issues.

In this shrinking world, connections are global, closer to home, and very personal. They are essential. Certainly, when two or three are gathered together, the Lord is in our midst.

What connections are important to you?

So much for us to consider.

Blessings as you pray,  
Deacon Angela