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## St. Mary by the Sea Catholic Church

PO Box 390 275 S Pacific Street Rockaway Beach OR 97136

**August 8, 2021**

*We are a loving, supportive, and vibrant Catholic community committed to being a welcoming parish family by spreading the Love of Jesus Christ throughout our community and into the world.*



### Reflection from Father Angelo

“Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.” (Matthew 16:23). Reading this part of the gospel on Thursday could definitely stop you on your tracks. Matthew, as he writes this for his community certainly makes his point heard loud and clear. What could we learn from this interaction with Jesus and Peter?

As I reflect further on this phrase. It’s a good reminder that as we refer to ourselves as disciples just like the 12 apostles, we are called to follow and not get ahead of Jesus. Followers are meant to follow the leader. The reference to satan is precisely on the fact that satan does not want to follow and obey God. He wants it his way but not God’s way. Peter forgot his role for a moment and he needed to be put in his place.

In life, sometimes we forget this important dynamic in our relationship with Jesus. He leads, we follow, we obey. We become an obstacle to the reign of God in our community when we forget who we are and our mission. As a priest, with every significant decision I’m about to make, I have learned to surrender it to our God who certainly knows better. In prayer I say, “Lord, this is your church, I’m just your worker.” The load becomes bearable when we have the conviction that God is Emmanuel for us. I implore you that as we strive to mature in our faith, let us be builders of unity and charity. May our community, along with its members and leaders, truly channel God’s loving presence that is seen in how we welcome and see one another with the eyes of faith and the heart of Christ.