

A Letter from Fr. Ed

Dear Parishioners,

I frequently run into people and they tell me they really miss church. They ask “when are we going to reopen fully”?

Governor Murphy has the State of Emergency up until at least June 6th. We are hoping it will be shortly after that, but we don't know.

We are working on plans as to how we will reopen when we get the go ahead. There WILL BE many changes that will take place. It does not look like we will be able to use the North School for Mass this summer. To make up for that, we will have another Mass in church, if not two. We will keep you updated on all of our plans.

We will be needing a lot of Liturgical ministers and other volunteers. With God's help it will work out.

On May 24th, Father Bill would have celebrated his 40th Anniversary of his priesthood, so let us remember this special man. In many ways he was a gem! It was not easy for him entering the seminary when he was older. He had to study 8 years before becoming a priest. I didn't see Fr. Bill as a book person, that made it even harder. However, I always thought he had a street knowledge and a good understanding of human nature. He used that well.

I mentioned many times how valuable Fr. Bill was for me before I entered the seminary and during the time I spent with him at St. Mary's in Kentucky. In a similar way, he was helpful for me right before I came here and for a few months when he was still alive. He was so happy that I would be the new pastor. Fr. Bill did such a good job here, especially with all the renovations. We have all benefited from that work. He had a good sense of humor, he was certainly a fun person.

It's not easy replacing a good pastor, but it has not been a problem here. The main reason is because of your acceptance and support of me. I am so grateful for that. I often think of Fr. Bill and frequently thank him in my prayers. We were blessed.

We have now begun our 2020 House of Charity Appeal. Some may feel it is not a good time to ask for money, but the needs are even greater now due to COVID-19. If you are unable to give, I certainly understand! Our assigned goal is \$101,264. We will not be having the in pew donations for a while. I am hoping we will be half way to our goal by then. The theme of this year's appeal is “Who Is My Neighbor?”

As a pastor, I have been directly involved with the House of Charity in three different parishes. I found last year's campaign to be one of the most uplifting of them all. It was a total team effort. So many people wanted us to succeed and did something about it. As a result, we made our goal and helped so many of our neighbors. We made their lives less sad! Let's strive to make the goal again.

God Bless,

Fr. Ed