

Dear Members of Sacred Heart Church,

It is so upsetting and sad to see, almost every day on TV, the enormously long lines of vehicles patiently waiting and slowly moving forward to pick up a box of food, a bag of groceries. Most of them, I am sure, never thought this is where they would be days before Thanksgiving. Yet, it is so inspiring to observe so many volunteers, helpers, families who will spend their Thanksgiving week receiving the food and distributing it to all those in need. Every day, even during the most desolate times of the pandemic (so far), I witness parishioners and members of our community dropping off bags and boxes of groceries for our faithful Vincentians to organize and distribute to the many in need all around us. This weekend, here at Sacred Heart, the verses from today's Gospel will come so lovingly to life: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink." When, Lord? "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me." I am also comforted to know so many of our parishioners nourishing and renewing the lives of others through their heartfelt prayers at home, at Church, in private. Every day I hear a word of kindness, support, encouragement that fills the heart with joy and gratitude. Our homes may have fewer visitors this year and it has been many months since our Church was filled to capacity but our Eucharistic Table will hold a heavenly banquet, our family table enjoy an amazing feast and the table of our humble hearts will host the holy love of Jesus. He is our Shepherd who guides us in right paths and leads us to a place of peace and repose. He is our King, who one day will say to us for recognizing Him in the breaking of the bread and in the least of our brothers and sisters that we feed: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

"To Jesus Christ, our Sovereign King, who is the world's salvation,
All praise and homage do we bring and thanks and adoration."

With sincere gratitude to all of you,

Father John