

A Return to Church Update

Our last public Mass was March 22. During this time there have been some things happening here at Saint Barbara.

While there have been no Public Masses, I have continued to say Mass and the Blessed Sacrament Sisters have attended. I am grateful to them. There have been a few times in these 57 years of my priesthood when I have said a private Mass. I have a tendency to get sloppy. Thank you Sisters for keeping me on track.

In late March, Archbishop Perez notified me that he would be happy if I would continue here at Saint Barbara for at least another year. I'm happy! You're stuck!

We have kept our staff on full payroll. Sharon Albergotti was coming in one day per week. Lately, she has increased her time in the office to about 50%. Sister Barbara and Reggie Carter have not been working. Lynn Albergotti has been doing some cleaning in Church while Karen King resigned from that position in May. Because we kept staff on payroll, we were eligible for a Federal Incentive Loan and were approved for \$32,000.00. It is expected that a significant part of this will be forgiven.

We have had about 40 parishioners who have consistently sent in contributions. This is greatly appreciated and has helped us to meet our financial obligations. The Catholic Foundation has sought donations and a family in Doylestown donated \$5,000.00 to us. Another one of our generous annual supporters also sent us \$5,000.00. God is good!

We had four deaths in these days. Louise Paramore who was 86, of natural causes, Helen Days, 95, of Covid19, Cleo Payne, 99, peacefully and Shirley Smith, 80, of Covid19. We had two graveside services, one service in a Funeral Home and one with a very small Funeral Mass.

One parishioners, Ike Davis, recovered from the virus and Kathi Lewis is still recovering after more than two months.

We had to suspend our Food Pantry as it operated out of the Rectory which has largely been shut down. Sandy Johnson partnered with the Nutritional Development Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to distribute Breakfasts and Lunches for children and she and several volunteers do that every

Wednesday from the front doors of our Church. Lately the Wynnefield Civic Association has used our parking lot to distribute food on Wednesday afternoons. I am convinced we are the perfect location in Wynnefield for those in cars and walking. 500 people receive these provisions. Our youth service at the Shelter at 63rd and Market Streets on the fourth Friday of each month continues but is much changed. Our teens cannot come here to prepare the meals nor to the shelter to distribute. The shelter cannot welcome clients into the building so the meals are now bagged lunches which the Sisters assemble in the Convent and are then delivered to the shelter. The Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill continue to fund this ministry.

Our Gala, this year an UNGALA raised over \$62,000.00 for our school at Saint Rose of Lima. Our children and their teachers practiced distance learning. It was not easy. Our Graduation was this past Wednesday and was a virtual ceremony which is now posted on our Webpage and on Flocknotes. Our Principal, Charles Arroyave, has accepted another educational position and our Vice-Principal, Mona Bradwell, has been promoted to Principal.

Flocknotes is a new service that we have joined to help us stay in touch with our parishioners. Many of you responded to our requests for contact information. Thank you. If you have not, we need your land line number, cell number and email address or as much of that as you have. Please call the Rectory – 215-473-1044.

We are grateful to our friends at Saint Raymond Parish in Cedarbrook who live-streamed their Mass every Sunday at 10:00. It was a blessing to all of us.

Some news that will cause us to perhaps tighten our belts. The Laboratory Charter School, our tenant in the Church-School building, is relocating. Their lease expires on August 30. We will lose about \$130,000.00 annually. The Oblates of Saint Joseph, a priest and seminarians, occupying our Convent on the Saint Rose of Lima Campus, have finished their studies at Saint Charles Seminary and have not renewed their lease, a loss of \$36,000.00 yearly. These are serious situations which need to be addressed.

Thank you for listening.

Monseñor Paschley