

“Roll out those lazy, crazy, hazy days of summer...”

Mary F Kovacs Foy, MPS

It is hard to believe that it is July already. This time last year, we were growing weary of social distancing and mask wearing, and we could only dream of when, or if, a vaccine or treatment would be discovered. Today, we're gathering again at family events and even public ones, albeit with still a few limitations. And the pace of our lives seems to have picked up without skipping a beat. We've gone from in our homes baking bread to racking up those miles on the minivan once again, running from activity to activity, filling our calendar with events and engagements, as if nothing ever happened.

The months of May and June once again buzzed with activity. We celebrated two First Eucharist celebrations, and two Confirmations here at Blessed Sacrament. I also was privileged to attend a wedding of a wonderful young couple who are friends of our daughter. My son graduated from law school. Capping all this off was the ordination of a dear friend to the priesthood and his first Mass the next day. I feel tired just listing all that here.

But, despite the busyness, it was truly a blessing to be at so many happy occasions, especially after all the abbreviated funerals and prayer services of the past year. Nearly everyone you meet or speak to has been impacted by the death of a friend or loved one in the pandemic. There were empty places at the wedding with treasured photos taking their places and empty seats at the graduation and ordination as well. Some of our parish children were not able to share their special days with grandparents, aunts and uncles, and others now gone. As I write this, six hundred and five thousand people in the United States alone have died from Covid-19. Read it again: SIX HUNDRED AND FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE. Each one of these was a child of God, someone's friend or loved one. Children were left orphans, and parents lost children way too early.

Now that the growth of this number has slowed in this country and we move ever onwards towards that evasive “normal” we long to get back to; now that the springtime events are past and we take a short breath before “back to school” time is here, let us each take some time to review, renew and refresh. Remember those who were lost and those left who suffer still; begin to move out of the fear and re-find something in you that was perhaps hidden or lost in the months of fear and panic. And let us refresh, not only ourselves, but each other. Walk with each other in our joys and celebrations, our sorrow and commemorations. When we're ready, let's take up the yoke of caring for others, those we know and those we may not. Let us truly be Christ in our world today.

Why especially now? Because even with a house filled with toilet paper and bottled water, we still need each other to survive.

Jesus said:

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;

and you will find rest for yourselves.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.” Mt 11:28-30