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May 2, 2020
+Feast of St. Athanasius

Dear parishioners of St. Charles and St. Patrick,

We even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

-Romans 5:3-5

I warmly greet each of you! The warmer weather, along with the recent unveiling of Governor Holcomb's plans for Indiana to get "back on track," has increased our spirits and our hope for returning to seeing one another soon and being back in church together. Bishop Doherty has emphasized the need for adequate thought and preparation in developing strategies for resuming public Masses and Sacraments safely. While the Bishop hopes to have directives formulated and released sometime this coming week, he writes that **"we do not anticipate being able to open for public Masses before at least mid to late May."** As soon as those directives are published, I'll be sure to send them to you! In the interim, diocesan recommendations from earlier in the week about groups no larger than ten persons will continue to apply to weddings, funerals, and baptisms. A recent diocesan communication reminds us that "social distancing remains a requirement of such gatherings, in addition to any sanitizing that needs to happen before and after a gathering." While our return to church will be incremental and gradual, at least we are moving in the right direction!

I now see God's providence in our winter efforts to revamp our parish website and begin offering online giving as an option for parishioners. They have both been quite helpful in the last two months! Many of you have been generous throughout this time of uncertainty to help us make ends meet at our parishes. Thank you for your goodness! Please continue your generosity as we navigate our way out of this pandemic.

Also, thank you for your continued support and generosity to the **Benton County Food Co-op**. As you can imagine, there has been an incredible increase in need in our community, and yet we have had sufficient food supply to meet the demand. The Co-op is now encouraging community members to grow their own "**Quarantine Garden**," designating a portion of the produce of your own garden to be given to the needy at the Co-op. If you would be willing to be a part of this project, please contact Chris Sheetz, Benton Community Food and Service Co-op, 765-385-0207.

LifeTeen's annual "Catholic Heart Work Camp" was unfortunately cancelled this summer, but their desire to serve is undiminished. With the help of a few parishioners from St. Patrick and St. Charles, LifeTeen will be creating their own "quarantine garden" for the Food Co-op on St. Patrick's parish property. More details will be forthcoming regarding opportunities for parishioners to assist the teens.

After commenting on the poor performance of the stock market, a comedian recently said, "What was the worst investment of all? A 2020 planner." It seems all our plans have been perpetually upended since mid-March, and we are eager for something to be solidified. It has been difficult for many of us to come to grips with not being in control. This is a wonderful lesson for us! One of the

greatest spiritual challenges is to relinquish the control of our lives that we never had to begin with. That being said, the following dates are “set in stone.”

May 3rd: This Sunday is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We need young men and women to respond to God’s call to the priesthood and consecrated life, especially from our parishes! For this occasion, Matt and I created a couple of videos on our website that we would like all of you to view. One is a vocations rosary, and the other is an interview with our parents! It’s a lot of fun!

May 7th-15th: Novena to St. Isidore the Farmer. So many in our community are involved in the world of agriculture. Attached is a beautiful set of prayers in preparation for the feast of the patron saint of farmers. Please join in praying each day! The virtual novena will be posted on our website and can be found here: <https://catholicrurallife.org/virtualnovena/>

May 10th: Along with being Mother’s Day, we will celebrate our parish May Crowning at that Mass. It should be a beautiful ceremony to honor our heavenly Mother!

Also May 10th: Over 40 parishioners have been preparing for 33 days to make their Marian Consecration on May 10th. Please pray for them!

Approx. May 24th: This will be seminarian Matt Jakupco’s last day with us at St. Patrick and St. Charles. But don’t you worry: He will be moving to St. Boniface in Lafayette for the summer to study Spanish. We will be sure to have a proper farewell for him by the end of July if the quarantine is fully lifted. I am so grateful for all he has done over the last three months.

June 1st: Two other seminarians will be moving into St. Charles rectory for the summer! Elliot Zak hails from St. Boniface parish and is in his final weeks before being ordained a deacon on August 1st. Coming from Carmel is Jason Diebolt, who just graduated college seminary and will begin his four-year theology program this fall. I am excited to introduce them to you all.

August 19th: My new moving day! Due to the coronavirus disruptions, Bishop Doherty has delayed the transfer of priests this summer. That means I am able to spend the entire summer with you all! Bishop Doherty’s communication is attached.

Also August 19th: Not only will Father Dick Weisenberger be moving to our area on this date, but also Father Stephen Duquaine, who will be “in residence” at St. Charles in Otterbein while he works full-time at the Marriage tribunal. He will assist with weekday and weekend Masses as he can.

I think that is all for now! Other dates and events such as First Communions, Confirmations, and reception of RCIA candidates into the Church will be added to the calendar as soon as we can. Please keep an eye on your e-mail inbox and our website for continued communication regarding the future opening of our churches.

Let’s continue to pray for one another!
Under the Mercy,
Father Haan