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July 9, 2020

Dear parishioners of St. Patrick and St. Charles,

Greetings in Christ!

I hope you are having a restful and relaxing summer. Despite the heat, it is wonderful to see the crops and gardens grow, and to even hear some youth sports starting up again. Even during the summer, please don't neglect your daily prayers (especially as a family!) We never take a vacation from our relationship with Christ. And remember to keep the Sabbath holy, even if you are unable to attend Mass. That means prayer, silence, and Scripture! Bishop Doherty has announced that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass will return on August 16th. More communication will be sent to you before that date. Some other things to keep in mind:

1. **Protocols at Mass:** For the foreseeable future, we will continue to require masks at the 5:30 Vigil Mass at St. Charles, and we will require social distancing at all weekend and weekday Masses. Ushers will continue to dismiss rows for Holy Communion, and dismiss rows to exit the Church at the end of Mass.
2. **Hour of Eucharistic Adoration:** This Friday, July 10th, 6-7pm at St. Patrick Church, we will hold an hour of prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament. This will be a beautiful time of prayer, silence, music, and reflection. Seminarian Elliot Zak will provide a meditation. Please join us!
3. **Seminarian Fund Appeal:** This weekend will be our Seminarian Fund Appeal. Seminarian Jason Diebolt will speak at the end of each of the Masses. You may bring your contribution to Mass with you, send it in the mail to the St. Patrick parish office, or you can make your contribution securely online through Faith Direct. Once you log in, merely click "One Time Gift" and type "Seminarian Fund Appeal" in the Note box.
4. **Pastorate Town Hall Meeting:** As you have heard, the parishes of St. Charles (Otterbein), St. John the Baptist (Earl Park), St. Joseph (Kentland), St. Mary (Dunnington), St. Patrick (Oxford), and Sacred Heart (Fowler) will be joining together effective August 19th as a "Southwestern Newton and Benton County Pastorate" within the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. You are invited to join our new Missionary Pastor, Father Richard Weisenberger for a Pastorate Town Hall Meeting. We are holding two Town Hall Meetings: **July 15, 7:00 pm St. Patrick, Oxford Parish Hall and July 23, 7:30 pm St. John the Baptist, Earl Park Parish Hall. *During the meeting we will provide an update on the Uniting in Heart Pastoral Plan, the immediate changes that will take place starting August 19th, and invite your input on proposed changes to the Mass schedules at parishes in the Pastorate.*** We will allow for appropriate social distancing and ask everyone to wear a facial mask during the meeting. We look forward to spending time with you in prayer and building community as we unite in the heart of Jesus Christ.

God bless each of you, and may He keep you safe, healthy, and holy!

Under the Mercy,

Father Haan

P.S. Mark your calendar for August 7 for an outdoor Farewell Party for the three Seminarians and I. More details in this week's bulletin.