



Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish

PO Box 310, 164 Main St

Lincoln, ME 04457

207-794-6333

Worship Sites

Sacred Heart – Winn

Saint Anne – Danforth

Saint Leo the Great – Howland

Saint Mary of Lourdes - Lincoln

April 27, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

It has been over a month since I wrote you. Much has taken place in that time frame. It is my hope that you are well. You are in my prayers every day as I ask for yours also. We have now entered the Easter season leaving behind the empty tomb and celebrating the promise of new life made possible by Jesus' Resurrection. That thought may be taking on new meaning for all of us.

This past Sunday (3rd Sunday of Easter), Bishop Deeley in his Live-Streamed Mass in Portland alluded to the fact that we are not able to gather at this time because of the virus. Dave Guthro, Diocesan Communications Director, mentioned that during the Mass, Bishop Deeley acknowledged the hardship that so many Catholics are experiencing in this time when the faithful are unable to gather for Mass and receive Holy Communion. The Bishop shared: "Some of you have written to me and shared your longing for the sacraments. I want you to know that I hear you. I do not want this to continue any longer than it is necessary. This, however, is a horrible virus. It has no natural enemy and we have no vaccination or cure. The measures which have been taken are for our mutual safety." The safety of all is and should be our priority. Please keep in prayer all who in one way or another are on the front lines in dealing with this pandemic including ourselves. Social distancing is the way we can do our part.

Parish life goes on. I wish to thank all who have been sending in your offertory. It is enabling the parish to continue operating though on a much smaller scale. I would like to ask, that in order to ensure a timelier reception of your tithing envelopes by mail, that you mail them to: Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, P. O. Box 310, Lincoln, Maine 04457. "We Share" is an online giving program that you can also use. Check the website at www.ourladyoftheeucharist.org, FaceBook, or MyParishapp for more information.

This time of year is when we are asked to participate in the Catholic Appeal. All who have participated in the past are being sent a mailing. Please give it your prayerful consideration as to whether you will be able to participate this year. We may have family, friends, neighbors and strangers that will also need our help in the next few months. Your support for the Appeal will enable us to continue helping the Church carry out Jesus' mission during these challenging times. I ask that you do what you can with prayerful reflection.

Events are being cancelled, postponed, or rescheduled during these times. The Diocese informed us that the Ordination to the Priesthood for Deacon Alex Boucher this May is being pushed back to August in hopes that gatherings of two hundred and fifty and more will be allowed by then. Please keep Deacon Alex in prayer as he awaits his Ordination.

Last week we heard from the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation that all Confirmations and First Communions scheduled for this Spring with the Bishop, have been cancelled. Parishes that would have had them are to notify the Bishop's Office with a tentative date for September. Then have the Pastor request from the Bishop delegation to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in place of the Bishop. We have six in our Parish who will be receiving these Sacraments. More information will be given as we

work out a date and time. Please keep our Confirmation and First Eucharist candidates and their families in your prayers.

Our RCIA Elect, Paul Springer and Jamie Carson, are also awaiting their opportunity to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. Once the authorities begin to allow large gatherings and we can gather on Sundays, I envision scheduling a date and time for Paul and Jamie to receive Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist with family, friends and parishioners present. Prayers are requested for them and all who are among the Elect.

In the next few weeks, we will be looking at the timetable for masses at St. Anne in Danforth. The normal schedule is to have services begin on Memorial Day through Labor Day. Given the present situation, it looks like we will be opening later in the summer. We will be following the guidelines to establish Church openings as given by Civil authorities and the Diocese. Based on the information being presently discussed, all openings will begin slowly and with a minimum amount of people being able to attend keeping the six-foot distance as a priority. And, there will have to be a way to sanitize spaces used. So, we still have a while to go.

These past few weeks priestly assignments have been announced. You can go to the Diocesan website for information. Come August 1st Msgr. Dubois will be going to Bangor replacing Fr. Frank Murray who is retiring. Fr. Jack Dickinson will be going to Scarborough replacing Msgr. Paul Stefanko who is retiring. And Fr. Tim Nadeau will be going to Biddeford replacing Msgr. Rene Mathieu who is retiring. We also recently heard that Fr. Joe Cahill and Fr. Mark Nolette will be retiring. That is a total of five retirements this year with one to be Ordained. Nine other reassignments for Associate Priests have been announced. Most of these involved our International priests. We are blessed to have them. Please keep them in your prayers.

Around Christmas two priests took personal leave of absences. With that happening and the present number of priests retiring, added responsibilities are given to those still active and to the lay staffing throughout the Diocese. These are challenging times for all aspects of our lives. Prayer is key. We all have a part to play. Your ongoing support through the sharing of time, talents, and treasures makes our Faith, Beliefs and Practices come alive. Yes, even when dealing with a pandemic. In the weeks and months to come we will need to make some decisions and take actions that our parents and grandparents would of never thought of. In the few short years, I have been here, we have had to make changes, major changes. In doing so, we are still able to provide for the Sacramental life of the Parish. In doing so, we continue to give witness to Jesus, the Risen, Son of God. In doing so, we put into practice the Faith life our Baptisms call us to. We put our Faith into action.

May 1 is around the corner. It is the month of Mary. Please consider saying a rosary each day during the month asking for Mary's continued intercessions on our behalf as we do the best we can to live as Jesus taught us.

If any of you have any questions, concerns, or any needs, please call. God Bless.

Peace Always,


Fr. Richard Malo