



IMMACULATE HEART^{OF} MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR JULY 26, 2020

Dear friends in the Lord,

In normal times, many parish households would typically move to new jobs, new homes and new schools during the summer months, and we would welcome scores of new parishioners moving into the Atlanta area. I have the sense that the global pandemic has put many such moves on hold, as families anxiously wait to see what their circumstances might be going forward. But right now it's hard to tell, since our Welcome Ministry hasn't been able to host newcomer receptions and I haven't been able to greet new parishioners after Mass. (If you are new to IHM this summer, please know that we are delighted to have you, and I can't wait to be able to tell you so in person!)

But we have experienced some of the typical summer transition on the IHM staff:

Kellie DesOrmeaux, IHM School's principal since 2016, announced earlier this year that she would leave to become Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Atlanta. We have deferred a national search for our new principal until a time when candidates may be freer to travel and make long-term commitments. I am delighted that Laura Cichanski, the school's wonderful Curriculum Director, has agreed to serve as Interim Principal for the 2020-21 school year, and I am confident that I can count on everyone to give her their complete support.

Deacon Bob Hauert has left the position of Director of Discipleship at IHM to work with the Office of Senior Priests at the Archdiocese. I am very grateful to Bob for his many years on the IHM staff—especially for the nine months he served as parish administrator when IHM was between pastors. It is a great consolation to me that Bob will continue to exercise his ministry as deacon at IHM, so we do not have to say farewell to him and Louise. I will defer the search for a new Director of Discipleship until post-pandemic, when we will have a clearer sense of the resources available to us.

Our seminarian intern, Elliott Andrade, ended his two-month stay with us this last week. Because of the public health crisis, Elliott did not have the opportunity to encounter as many parishioners as he might have otherwise. But even if you didn't get to meet him, I know he would be grateful for your prayers as he returns to Mundelein Seminary in Chicago to continue his priestly formation.

I wish Godspeed to everyone who will experience a transition of any kind this summer or fall. Know that Christ Jesus accompanies you in all your comings and goings.

Your brother in Christ's word and work,