



Dear Parishioners,

I returned from my short vacation about a week ago feeling rested and refreshed. But the heat and humidity this past week has quickly caused me to wilt! I hope all of you are keeping well during these days. Once again, the Coronavirus is on the up-tick, and so we are reminded of the importance of vigilance and protection. **The wearing of masks in public places is now mandatory in many jurisdictions, including Franklin County and the City of Columbus. Our Sunday Mass attendance has leveled off and even declined slightly in the last two weeks.** I take this as an indication that people are being very cautious about joining larger gatherings of people, and that is absolutely the right way to be. I have to be very careful myself because if I should become sick, I would not be able to celebrate Mass and we would be faced with the possibility of suspending public masses once again. So, let's all be careful and safe, and not let these things happen!

This weekend we bid farewell to Fr. T.J. Lehigh who begins his new assignment as Pastor of the Perry County Consortium of Parishes this week. Please see his message in this week's bulletin. I am sorry that, due to the restrictions on gatherings, we cannot give him a proper farewell. But I do wish to thank him for his ministry these past two years and for his assistance to me and St. Andrew Parish, and to wish him every success in his new assignment.

We also are preparing to welcome Fr. Bill Ferguson who will arrive here at St. Andrew on Tuesday of this week and begin his service here as our associate pastor. I hope you all will give him a warm welcome.

This weekend also marks the belated kick-off of the 2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Like everything else, the BAA was sidelined by the pandemic. Furthermore, many families, businesses, and individuals are struggling financially due to loss of revenue, employment, and income. I want to thank St. Andrew parishioners for your continued support of St. Andrew Parish. Although our offertory donations are down slightly from last year, it is still pretty good, and nowhere near as bad as I feared it might be. I can't thank you enough for your loyalty and sacrifice!

But I also know that this is not a good time to launch the BAA. And yet, the Diocese really needs the funds from the Appeal to carry out its important work. **I have often said that the Bishop's Annual Appeal is to the Diocese what the Sunday collection is to the parish. Especially this year, during the pandemic crisis, the support that the Bishop and the diocesan offices and agencies have given to our parishes, schools, programs, clergy, and laity have been indispensable.** We could not have gotten through these past few months without the support of the Diocese of Columbus. And so, we must do our part to support the Diocese through the Bishop's Annual Appeal. St. Andrew Parish has always been generous to the Appeal, and the Bishop continues to count on our support. Last year we surpassed our goal for the Appeal. I know these are difficult times, but I ask you please, if you are able, to give whatever you gave last year. If your circumstances do not permit this, I understand and do not wish to place an unbearable burden on you. But if you can, please do. This is what I will do also.

Letters with pledge envelopes were sent to all parish households recently, and pledge envelopes are available in the vestibule of the church (not in the pews, however, as in the past). You may return your

pledge in the collection baskets in the church, drop them off in the drop box at the parish office, or return them by mail. Thank you for your consideration and your generosity.

May God bless you all! Stay cool and stay safe!

Your Pastor,
Msgr. Stephan Moloney