



Dear Parishioners,

As you read this message, I am away on my shortened annual vacation, in far-away, enchanting Ada, Ohio! I will be relaxing there through the Fourth of July Holiday. **As we approach the holiday weekend, when we celebrate our freedom and independence as a nation, I am sure that all of us wish we were free of the threat of the coronavirus.** Three months ago, when the pandemic first reached Ohio and we began "social distancing," and working from home, I thought to myself at that time that everything would be back to normal by Summer. Maybe you thought that too! However, the pandemic is still very much with us, and we must continue to be very careful.

Our attendance at Sunday Masses increased by about 75 last weekend, and in fact, at the 11 a.m. Mass, all the available pews were occupied. This weekend you will notice a change, as now we are permitting seating in every other pew, rather than every third pew. This will allow for more seating while still preserving social distancing and keeping the total number of occupants under the recommended 30% of the maximum occupancy. It remains very important that everyone who comes to church wear a face mask while in church, for your own protection and that of others in attendance. The medical professionals who have been assisting the Diocese of Columbus with our safety procedures tell us that wearing a mask does indeed protect both the wearer and others from the virus. If you should happen to come to church without your mask, we do have some available, and the ushers can provide one for you.

We are still observing precautions in other church activities also and are adjusting the celebration of weddings and funerals to conform with our safety guidelines. St. Andrew School, like all schools, is preparing for the upcoming school year, while not knowing exactly what to expect. **We are preparing to use the Parish Hall for classroom space because the students will need space to spread out for proper social distancing.** This means that the Parish Hall will most likely be unavailable for other uses for some time.

I am pleased to tell you that St. Andrew has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Catholic Foundation to obtain a video camera system for live streaming our Sunday Masses. I got the idea for this last March as the Cathedral was installing a system to make the Holy Week services available. It seemed to me that if St. Andrew had such a system, it would be a service to the homebound even after the pandemic is over. Fr. Lehigh has been recording our masses and making them available for a couple of months now, but with his forthcoming departure, he will not be able to continue this service. The new system will take some time to acquire and install. **There may be an interruption in the availability of our masses online. If anyone would like to help out with this, please let us know!**

I am frequently asked by parishioners, "How is Mabel?" I haven't mentioned her in a while, and since I have been getting this question a lot, I thought I might give a little update. In case you don't know, Mabel is my dog. She is an 11-year-old miniature Dachshund. **I am happy to say Mabel is well. She is definitely a "senior dog" and not quite as active, but she is happy and in good health.** She has enjoyed having me around more the last few months while I was "working from home." Now that I am going back to my work at the Chancery Office more frequently, she is getting used to that routine also. She is somewhat hard of hearing but has not had any serious medical issues for over a year. She is vacationing with me at my home in Ada, and she thanks you for asking about her!

I wish all of you a Happy Fourth of July holiday, and may God continue to bless our Nation and all of you!

Your Pastor,
Msgr. Stephan Moloney