



September 3, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

This is Labor Day Weekend, the unofficial end of summer. While the weather will still be summer-like for several more weeks, what we typically consider to be the carefree, relaxed days of summer vacation are coming to a close.

Admittedly, the summer of 2020 has been anything but carefree and relaxing. We have been dealing with coronavirus all summer and trying to avoid becoming ill. We have been living in fear, staying home, keeping our distance, isolating ourselves, wearing masks, avoiding crowds, sanitizing our hands and trying to avoid touching anything. We have been missing ordinary human contact and the company of friends and neighbors. We missed going to our favorite vacation destinations, entertainment venues and other fun attractions. Our favorite parades, festivals and community celebrations were cancelled. Instead of having fun and good times, we worried about contagious disease, about systemic racism, about economic hardship, about injustice and about tension, strife and violence in our cities. We worried about our jobs, our financial security and our families. I worry that the effect of all this prolonged fear and uncertainty is that many are feeling overwhelmed, despairing and hopeless.

Perhaps this Labor Day we should put this summer behind us and set our hopes on better days to come. We can use this holiday as a time to make a break with negative thinking, to care for our own mental health, and to encourage and support one another. Prayer is a great antidote to anxiety and fear. Prayer lightens our burdens and eases our troubled minds. Prayer enables us to surrender to God, to trust in His care, and to grow in the virtue of Hope. Prayer makes things better. As this strange and distressing summer comes to an end, I prescribe a generous dose of prayer. It is medicine for your soul and a pain-reliever for your mind. And I promise that you will feel better.

Your Pastor,  
Msgr. Stephan Moloney