



September 22, 2021
Wednesday of the Twenty-Fifth Week of Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners:

I hope this note finds you well!

Hopefully, you received my email yesterday concerning my diagnosis of COVID-19. I am in the hospital at the Main Campus of the Cleveland Clinic and am feeling rather good! Even though I was fully-vaccinated and received the extra third dose because of my transplant and cancer history, I will be receiving a course of anti-viral treatment and some antibodies. The doctors indicated this would be the best course of action to keep me hopefully feeling as good as I am now and give me the best shot at a good outcome! I am appreciative of all the prayers for me and all the sick that have already come my way! I, truthfully, do not like all this attention but feel it is most important that you hear things directly from me as much as I am able.

Now, to some more exciting things: Service Day is coming up on October 9! While some stuff will be different on account of COVID, we have tried to develop something for everyone, including opportunities to serve in the comfort of your own home. Sign-ups are available now online at www.sjohio.org/service or before and after the Masses this weekend and next in the Holy Family Center. I hope that you will consider joining, especially if you'd be new to it!

Secondly, in the Fall of 2019, I brought together leaders of our parish social concern ministries to promote collaboration and provide support for many parish initiatives designed so that we can use our God-given gifts in service of God and neighbor. Throughout the past two years, despite challenges presented by the pandemic, our parish outreach activities have remained vibrant thanks to creative adaptations of ministry leaders and because of gifts of time, talent and financial contributions from parishioners.

While that good work continues, we have identified a desire and need to take a deeper dive into the rich body of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). As Christians, trying to live authentically Catholic lives, we can sometimes feel overwhelmed and even discouraged about what we see happening in the world around us, and especially of late, the growing impasse between people that impacts our ability to work together for the common good. But through God's grace we take heart in knowing that our baptism in Christ calls us to see these challenges as opportunities to be salt and light: for this we need both God and one another.

Our Social Concerns Commission's first step is to invite anyone who is interested in joining or learning more about taking part in this effort to complete a one question survey, which can be found here: <https://forms.gle/L8gwgJm3BDRA3wH6>. We hope to bring together a diversity of ages, backgrounds and

perspectives. We also recognize that CST presents challenges to our own views and life circumstances, so don't think you can't be struggling with some or other aspect of CST to take part. Once we know who is interested, a member of our Social Concerns leadership team will reach out to you to share more and to learn more about your hopes for participation. Among all who want to participate, together we will seek consensus on the logistics (how, where and when to meet) and format (e.g., book club, periodic series) that will work best for everyone to achieve our purpose.

Thirdly, while we have had a few hiccups along the way, live-streaming of both 4:30pm Mass on Saturday and 10am Mass on Sunday continues. I thank Joe and Tim who are now our regular streamers, but we could use a few more! If you, or perhaps one of your kids, would like to learn and especially if you already go to one of these Masses, please give the Parish Office a call. We will get you trained and ready to go!

And finally this month, I invite you to join us for *St. Joseph: A Mystery, a Model, a Patron* our upcoming Parish Mission on Sunday-Tuesday, October 3-5. We will gather each night at 7pm with author, Mike Aquilina, of *St. Joseph and His World* to reflect more deeply upon the life of our patron, St. Joseph. You may recall that we gave his book away back in March. We look forward to welcoming Mike and reflection with him to learn more about St. Joseph, especially in both this Year of St. Joseph and during our 75th Anniversary Year. I hope you will join us!

Have a blessed remainder of the week. I'll see you when I'm back and recovered!

St. Joseph, pray for us,
~Fr. Joe