

## NOTE FROM FR. JOHN

April 22, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

I cannot be more grateful to you for your kind notes with your weekly offerings. They are very comforting and supportive. So far, we have received over \$6000 with online donations. Mail and drop off offerings continue on a steady basis. I check the rectory mailboxes several times a day, as well as the poor box in the back of the church. For comparison, last year during the same time period (mid-March to Easter), the parish received roughly \$77,768 in donations. This year we received \$37,335, with no masses being offered. We took a big hit on Palm Sunday and Easter, as did most parishes. At a time when your concern should be about your family and their health, I want to publicly acknowledge your loyalty to the Magdalene.

Thank you!

- (1) Our biggest bill each month (and the biggest bill for any parish) is what is known as the “consolidated bill,” payable to the diocese for the support of various diocesan offices, and for the parish pension and medical obligations for its employees. Our bill is \$8163, each month. For larger parishes it can be over \$30,000. The assessment is calculated on the amount received in weekly collections. It annoyed me this week when I received an email from the diocese to pay our bill. You should know that our bill was paid the week before. All our bills are paid as received. Within 10 minutes, the diocese received a response from me. It was brief and to the point. Need I say more.
- (2) Many of us are familiar with the movie “Mommy Dearest,” about the life of Joan Crawford. She hated wire hangers. She would scream “**NO WIRE HANGERS**” at her children. No screaming. Please do not use scotch tape to seal your weekly offering. It presents a problem for us and the envelope company in processing your offering.
- (3) As I mentioned at mass last Sunday, one of our parishioners asked how she could use her \$1200 payout from the government, since she is not in need of the money. Food pantries are desperate. Two suggestions: our local Tarrytown-Sleepy Hollow food pantry, and HOPE Community Services in New Rochelle. Our religious ed director, Dot Meehan, sits on the board of HOPE, and another

parishioner, Stephanie Fuller, is on the board of the Tarrytown-Sleepy Hollow food pantry.

- (4) Since mid-March the diocese has lost 5 priests due to the virus, age, and various medical conditions. In addition, the cardinal has put a hold on any foreign priests helping out in the diocese this summer. This basically means that many diocesan parish priests will not have the opportunity to take their vacations this summer. The pandemic will force many organizations to re-evaluate their present and future operations. The diocese is not exempt.
- (5) Our live-streaming of mass has been very successful, considering our low-tech operation. For the last two Sundays we averaged 500-600 views each Sunday. Last Sunday Sarah Haase found a lens attachment for her cell phone that provided a wider screen for projecting the mass to our Facebook page. Even if you do not have a Facebook page (I don't), simply go to our parish website and click on "Follow Us on Facebook" and you will have access to our live streaming. We stream Sunday mass live at 10am. We are actively working on a more permanent live-streaming setup, since I anticipate some hesitancy among a few parishioners in every parish to join crowded churches in the near future. This past week we had a technical expert visit the church. He will give us several proposals for installing hardware. I believe that this is a crucial step in keeping parishioners connected to our parish. Our future and our viability as a parish may well depend on the sustained loyalty of our parishioners, physically present or not.
- (6) While the parents in our parish may be at their wit's end with kids home all day, I do miss seeing them at mass and at CCD. A parish has a very different feel without the liveliness and antics of the young. I just pray that we do not lose them forever because of this imposed hiatus. Please give them my best.
- (7) They say that when it rains, it pours. For the last three weeks we have been trying to contact the parish housekeeper for the rectory and the school, with no success. We have tried every means at our disposal. She has been with the Magdalene 25-30 years. We do not know what has happened. She might be ill or in the hospital. Unfortunately, we know of no family in this country or abroad. We pray that she is ok. As a consequence, I find myself doing the parish

laundry, changing sheets and towels, making beds, emptying the trash bins, etc. I haven't started vacuuming, yet! And I don't do windows! Any suggestions or leads? The rectory is cleaned every other week, the school, on alternate weeks during the school year.

(8) A reminder: we need parishioner emails to communicate quickly and keep our parishioners up to date on what is happening at the parish through Flocknote. Please spread the word. Stay safe and do not let your guard down. This virus is far from over.

**Almighty and Eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress, in faith we pray:**

**Look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders, and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your name. Amen.**

**CARDINAL'S STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2020:**

**As of 4/24/2020**

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u># of Donors</u>	<u>Donor Goal</u>
\$48,000	\$28,890	69	130

**To make your gift online, visit [cardinalsappeal.org](http://cardinalsappeal.org).**

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS:** Reminder: Please do not tape or staple the envelopes. Just seal them. The tape or staple causes problems with D. P. Murphy when they calculate the envelopes. Thank you so much!

**ANYONE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE?** Please contact rectory at 914-631-0529 if you need help during this difficult time (food shopping, etc.).