

## NOTE FROM FR. JOHN

May 12, 2020

May 11, 2010

Dear Parishioners:

I am sure that we are all growing tired of this routine, but we understand how important it is to maintain our health and the health of our families. Everyone on the parish staff is well. We take each day as it comes and do the best we can. I think of the words of St. Paul from 2 Corinthians: "We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed..."

(1) In the "Donate" portion of our website we have added 2 other important categories for future reference: Christmas and Easter. It helps us keep track of our two major collections in addition to our weekly Offertory collection. Thank you for your generosity regardless of how you chose to donate. Update on Cardinal's Appeal: Goal, \$48,000; Pledged: \$30,566. Needed: \$17,500.

(2) Last week I mentioned our updated parish list, in contrast to the outdated mailing list used by the diocese (without our knowledge) to mail the "We Share" solicitation cards many of you received. You should know that when I arrived at the Magdalene in July of 2016 our parish list officially listed 520 households. As of this week we count 617 households. We welcome all our new families who bring to our parish a vibrant faith and infectious enthusiasm. I can say, without any qualification, I am honored to be here at the Magdalene. I cannot think of another parish in our diocese more cohesive, supportive, and prepared for the future (unknown as it is) than the Magdalene.

(3) Since the pandemic lockdown, while we have had no deaths here in the parish, I have had two burials at the request of local funeral homes. Due to social distancing, only 4-5 family members were allowed. In one case the deceased was a WW II veteran (age 96) who was not accorded the customary military honors, which he deserved and to which veterans are entitled. It is unfortunate that the approaching Memorial Day will require a muted celebration in honor of our service members. Another unintended casualty of the pandemic. In great and small ways, this pandemic leaves no one untouched.

(4) Last weekend we were to celebrate the First Communion of our Religious Education students. Obviously, that was not possible. We are looking forward to welcoming our children to the Lord's Table sometime in the fall, with all the necessary precautions because of the pandemic. This will require delicate

balancing: celebration and caution. If social distancing is still required at that time, live streaming of the event, to family members not able to attend, might be the solution. For this reason we continue to pursue the option of a more permanent live streaming installation.

(5) Following up on the previous observation, some have reported that by the time they get to the live streaming of mass they have missed the opening comments at mass and part of the Gloria. Even though we will go on the air at 10am, we will try to provide some background music for a minute or two to allow everyone to get online. Each week, as we try to tweak the live streaming, we learn more. Remember, even if you do not have a Facebook account, go to our Website and click on "Follow Us on Facebook." If it asks you to join Facebook, click "Not now."

(6) Each day we receive 2-5 visitors to the church. The church is open 7 days from 9-4. The thought occurred to me that parents with grade school age children might like to add a change of pace to their daily routine. Why not a brief field trip to the church to light a candle and say a prayer for some chosen intention?

(7) We are still soliciting email addresses for our Flocknote. It is our most effective way of communicating with our parishioners. While our Flocknotes are distributed on Tuesday, they are posted on our website on Friday afternoon. Thank you for the small notes and updates you include with your envelopes and donations. I read all of them and am appreciative of your comments. By the way, I haven't seen any scotch tape on the envelopes recently. Good job!

(8) I have been trying to get the old rectory TV (from 1993) properly hauled away. It has been sitting on the rectory porch for 3 weeks. The Town of Mt Pleasant will finally haul it away on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Alleluia!

(9) Thursday, May 21st, is the Feast of the Ascension. Unfortunately, we will not be able to live stream mass since all the personnel necessary will not be available on a weekday. Many dioceses, years ago, shifted the Ascension celebration to the following Sunday. New York was not one of them. This raises another issue: how prepared are we in our diocese for, what I think, will be necessary and unprecedented structural changes in all areas of diocesan operations due to this pandemic (parishes, schools, staffing, finances, sacramental ministrations, clergy-laity relations, etc.). For example, the diocese of Sacramento has granted pastors delegation to administer confirmation in light of this pandemic. What other changes will be necessary? As Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz declared: "We are not in Kansas anymore."

**CARDINAL'S STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2020: As of 5/15//2020**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Pledged</b>	<b># of Donors</b>	<b>Donor Goal</b>
\$48,000	\$34,416	81	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.).