

## **NOTE FROM FR. JOHN**

Week of May 4

Dear Parishioners: All is quiet at the parish. The Cardinal called again last week to see how things are here in Pocantico. He observed how little traffic there was on Madison Ave. If truth be told, we have more car and truck traffic on Bedford Rd.

We may be a small hamlet, but the traffic on 448 is impressive!

1. We did get one proposal for a permanent live stream installation. However, I did not think that the cost (\$10,000) was justified, considering we do not know what parishes will remain open after the diocese takes stock of its institutions and personnel once the pandemic has abated. I am seeking other proposals because, in my opinion, live streaming keeps the parish connected to parishioners unwilling or unable to be physically present at church due to lingering fears of the virus. In addition, streaming allows our services (baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals) to be viewed by family members unable to attend. Therefore, it is worth pursuing. You should also know that live streaming from church depends upon our internet connectivity. Last Sunday we lost our connection briefly. As many of you know, the cell service and internet connectivity at the church can be abysmal. This is why the chaplain for Westchester Medical does not live here any longer. The hospital could not reach him by cell phone for emergencies. Enough said.
2. Thank you for your continuous generosity. It is difficult to provide a weekly total of revenue to match a particular Sunday's envelope, since donations arrive by mail, in person, and online. Since we initiated online giving, we have netted \$12,800. The generous checks we receive, without the weekly envelope, usually do not specify the weeks they cover. Regardless, you should know that our bottom line is good, especially with the infusion of the loan from the Payroll Protection Program (\$28,400). This loan becomes a grant in 2 months as long as we continue to pay our employees. It allows us to cover our two major expenses: salaries and diocesan assessments, over which we have no control. At present, we are able to meet all our financial obligations through our parish operating account. Also, thank you for pledging \$29,700 toward the Cardinal's Appeal. Our goal is \$48,000. A reminder: please be cautious with text messages, emails, and phone calls soliciting funds for various causes. The scammers are out in force. Unfortunately, the pandemic energizes those intent on doing evil.
3. This past week postcards were sent to parishioners seeking to enroll you in the online giving "We Share" program. It was signed the "Parish Staff." This came as a surprise to us. It appears that the diocese used the Cardinal's Appeal mailing list (outdated) to help bolster enrollment in online giving and mailed these out. It seems that the parish needed to "opt out" if we did not want these sent, an oversight on our part. However, we were not informed what address list was used for these mailings and when these mailings were to be sent. Because of lack of communication from the diocese to us concerning the list, they were using, cards were sent to deceased parishioners. We apologize for any hurt this may have caused. Even though the return address listed on the card is the parish, we are NOT sending these cards. We did not provide our parish mailing list for this purpose. Our parish list is up to date. If it brings you any comfort, you should know that parishioners in other parishes also received these cards from their respective parishes. Enough said.

4. Last week we lost 2 more diocesan priests from complications of the virus, bringing the total to 8 since the pandemic hit New York. Also, we lost several deacons. Religious communities, like Maryknoll, the Capuchins, etc., have likewise been hit hard. Please remember these church ministers in your prayers. Last week the cardinal gave permission for masses to resume in religious houses of sisters, brothers, and priests, with strict restrictions: masks, gloves, sanitizers, etc.
5. Please let us know of parishioners who are completely confined to their homes and can use a phone call from the rectory to bolster their connection to the parish during this period of isolation.
6. 2 quick reminders: Sunday mass from the Magdalene is live streamed at 10 am on our Facebook page, which can be accessed on our parish website by clicking on “Follow Us on Facebook.” Also, by registering your email address with the parish we can update our parishioners with the latest information. If you know of someone who is not connected to the internet, please share these Flocknotes with them.
7. Please remember our local foodbanks. Food insecurity has become an unwelcome distraction for so many more families because of unemployment or underemployment. The pandemic has simply intensified the needs of so many. When I was in Shoprite the other day, being annoyed (as were others), by the mechanical breakdowns of the self-checkout counters, I realized how fortunate I am to be able to choose and buy what I need. Sometimes we can all use a wake-up call.
8. An invitation: We have, for obvious reasons, reduced our purchases of flowers for our altar. If you would like to provide flowers from your garden (no purchases), we have all types of vases. Just let us know when you are bringing them and we will be prepared. Please omit the “killer Asian hornets.”
9. Next Sunday is mothers’ day. Our mothers, living and deceased, will be remembered in our 10 am mass on Facebook. We offer the following prayer:

**CARDINAL’S STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2020: As of 5/8//2020**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Pledged</b>	<b># of Donors</b>	<b>Donor Goal</b>
\$48,000	\$30,566	78	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.).

**“Lord Jesus, shepherd of the flock, you ministered tirelessly to the sick, the marginalized, the wayward, the lonely, the unbelieving, and the wounded, hear our prayer this day for all mothers and those who have assumed the role of mother. Strengthen them, especially at this time, to be models of love, patience, mercy, and service. May their reward be a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.” Amen.**

**HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY**