

Message to the good folks of Mary Our Lady of Peace and St. Maria Goretti.

After a two-week break, it is time to check in. I know I am counting, but this coming weekend July 18-19 will be the 18th Sunday since the shut-down. Unfortunately, there seems to be no end in sight as the area continues to have new cases of the virus reported each day, nor the lifting of the restrictions in the celebration and gathering for Mass. It is wonderful to have people back in the pews despite all the protocols, etc.

To update what's happening since we reopened, it is good to know that the parishes are catching up with the celebration of the Sacraments. Back on Friday, June 19 we celebrated the Easter Sacraments. Last week Wednesday, July 8 (half of the class) from Mary Our Lady of Peace celebrated their First Holy Communion, the other half is scheduled for Monday, July 20. At St. Maria Goretti we celebrated First Holy Communion last Thursday, July 9. Also, Confirmation at Mary Our Lady of Peace has been scheduled for Saturday, August 8 at the 5:30 evening Mass. Msgr. Merdian will preside. So long story short, we are alive and well and functioning at full tilt.

I would call this summer-the summer that wasn't. Many of us had plans that have been postponed, if not canceled. Many are still out of work or under-employed due to the coronavirus. Lives have been changed to say the least.

On the diocesan level, the new Bishop Lou Tylka will be ordained and installed as the Coadjutor (meaning right to succession when Bishop Jenky retires.) on Thursday, July 23 in Peoria. The new bishop will celebrate the 4 o'clock on Saturday, August 22 at St. Pius with a reception to follow which is open to the public. The Mass may be limited.

The respective parish councils have met during the shut-down and looked ahead. A big loss due to the restrictions is how Mary Our Lady of Peace conducts the Annual Fall Gala. There is Going To Be a Gala. Not in the traditional sense, as everything will be online/facebook. We will have the raffle, and an auction with several items. However, there will be no silent auction. No gathering, no food etc... We will auction everything online that evening October 10. More

information will be forthcoming. I encourage everyone to support the cash raffle and purchase and sell as many raffle tickets as possible as it will be the major source of revenue.

I also want to express my gratitude to all who continue to support the parish in these trying times and ask one to consider electronic giving. Any support one can share is most appreciated. Our revenue is down understandably, please do the best one can in helping the mission of the parish.

One final note, we at Mary Our Lady of Peace express our heartfelt thanks to Julie Abbot who has served as the Religious Education Coordinator for many years at Mary Our Lady of Peace has retired from that position. Many, Many thanks for a job well-done. It is with joy to announce that Jeff DePorter has agreed to fill the position of Religious Education Coordinator at MOLOP. Thanks to Jeff for saying YES!

Stay safe, stay healthy

Fr. Tony