

FROM SUE WEHNER, RN, BSN

Dear Priests of our Diocese,

It is hard to believe that we just marked the one-year anniversary since we were told that our parishes would close for two weeks, initially, due to the global pandemic and what we all know as Covid-19. Who would ever think that those 2 weeks would turn into a year and we would still be experiencing all the regulations and modifications that have become a necessary part of our daily living? The good news is there is light at the end of this very long tunnel. Spring is coming soon (and hopefully warmer, less windy days), vaccines are being administered and Easter is right around the corner. New life begins to refresh our soul and a renewed hope is upon us.

I think this past year has taught us all a little more about ourselves. Maybe we have discovered a new talent, picked up a book more often, written a letter to an old friend, or perhaps connected (even virtually) to those friends or family we sometimes take for granted. Covid-19 has given us a deeper appreciation of so much, especially the amazing life God has given to each of us. We all have gained some patience, as we have waited for what is to come. Just as we watch and wait for our Lord and Savior, we must continue to do the same during these many difficult and challenging days we are faced with.

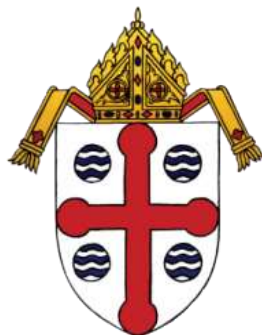
I want you to know that Fr. Roach and I keep you all in prayer and think of you often. For those of you who are celebrating Mass, I sincerely thank you. Thank you for braving the unknown, with all its uncertainty, putting your own health at risk, for your parish family. Everything you have known and done as routine is no longer; we now have a "new normal" and will never get back to what our "normal" was. I can only imagine how hard that is, as you have adjusted to this yourselves, let alone shepherding your parish families through this as well. I admire all of you for that, and it is such a gift you give to your parishioners.

I know I still have not met some of you, but I want you to know, I am here for you. Whether it be a phone call to ask me about a new medication, discuss a new medical diagnosis, or even just needing someone to be your advocate, I am here. I help a lot of our retired priests with medication management, blood pressure checks, transportation to medical appointments as necessary and much more. Maybe you just need to talk and relieve some stress; I can be that ear for you (or Fr. Roach). I want to help you in any way I can, and I would be honored and privileged, to take that call from you.

Wishing you much peace and hope as we all continue to brave the storm.

Healthy blessings,

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