

Dear Parishioners,

The effects of the Covid-19 virus on the Church was reported the other week when 26 sisters from three religious houses died as a result of the virus. The houses were in different parts of the country- New York, Wisconsin and the hardest hit of them all in Livonia, a stone's throw from Detroit.

They were Felicians, Maryknollers, Franciscan and Mercy Sisters. They were teachers, librarians, directors of religious education, organists and missionaries. One was a secretary in one of the Vatican offices and another was an author of a 586-page history of her congregation. They lived together, prayed together and worked together.

Among the tributes to these women was one by the mayor of Livonia who commented that the Felician Sisters "have been taking care of people in our community literally from the cradle to the grave... Now we have less nuns that are available to work in the hospital, less nuns that are available in our teaching institutions, less nuns that are out there taking care of making sure our souls are protected."

Why should these deaths concern us? Their story is our story as well. Even though we may never have met them, they labored hard to build up the Church. They helped to make the Church what it is today. They dedicated their lives to serve Christ and they remind us that we need to likewise do the same. Namely, we are called to build up the Body of Christ- His Church. The loss to the Church is great, however it is up to us to continue their mission each in our own way. Let us learn from them and their example and pray that we might do as good a job as they did.

We have one parishioner in the hospital due to Covid-19. I have been in communication with him and his voice is much stronger now after three weeks of being on a ventilator. He is in therapy from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. every day, learning, or should I say relearning, such life basics as breathing, swallowing and eating. He is grateful for all our prayers and thoughts and asks that we keep them up.

I mention him because we need to be aware that this virus is serious- very serious. We need to keep socially distant, wear a mask and do all that is asked of us by the CDC. The virus isn't going away anytime soon nor is there a vaccine around the corner. It is up to us to do our part to limit the spread of the virus. I don't want to see any more of you getting the virus and the complications that come with it. Please take care and stay healthy. Let's do all that we can to prevent the spread of this virus.

The *St. Mike's on Spikes* golf tourney was a hit! It was one of our largest outings over the past 25 years. I want to thank Dennis Wolfe and the staff at the golf course for making it possible as well as all the golfers who participated and our wonderful crew of chefs and servers who prepared the meal. The money raised will go toward upgrades in technology in the School. When we were forced to close down school in March our teachers were able to teach online for the duration of the year- thanks in part to the technology we were able to purchase from past golf outings and the creativity of our teachers. The diocese is requiring that we purchase more

technology in the years to come so that we can continue the grand tradition of educating our young people. Thanks for your support!

Also, we had our 6th grade graduation recently. I would have preferred to do it on a Sunday so that the community could have celebrated with them, but we were prohibited from doing so. We had a Mass with the graduates and their families with pizza afterwards. Once families had left, some of the teachers remained to talk about their plans for the upcoming school year- I was very glad to be there and listen to them.

This Friday we will celebrate the Feast of the Assumption at 5:00 p.m. in the church. This will be the community's coming together (as much as we can) to honor Mary's place in heaven. The Church teaches that since Mary was without sin, she never died, but rather was assumed into heaven. The eastern tradition of the Church calls this the Feast of the Dormition or Mary falling asleep and being taken up to heaven. Please plan to come and honor Mary's Assumption into heaven.

On Saturday, we will celebrate First Communion with our 2nd grade class. This Mass is open only to the First Communicants and their families. We congratulate them and their families on this occasion. It is also a blessing to the parish as we witness more of our members joining us around the Altar of the Lord and coming forward to receive His most precious Body and Blood.

Please stay healthy and keep well... Fr. Tom