

February 2021

Dear Members of our Parish Family,

It goes without saying, that the last year has provided us with challenges and changes in our lives we could never imagine. Each new day has been a call by the Holy Spirit to continue to move forward in faith and hope.

- ❖ We continue to prepare for our July 4th weekend transition to one site for our Parish liturgical celebrations. An important part of this move is the sale of St. Aloysius. We are in the final stage of receiving an offer of \$925,000.00 for the whole property. It is a good price for the market today and we have been waiting for a good offer for over 2 years. Let's all pray that the deal can be accomplished without a glitch.
- ❖ Part of our farewell will be a final Mass celebrated by Bishop Hying (my classmate) who is also a son of St. Aloysius. When we have dates available, we'll announce it right away. Over the next few months we will prepare further for our transition as we look at our music, liturgical ministry scheduling and forming a renewed Prayer and Worship Committee.
- ❖ As some of you are aware, my health situation has taken a dramatic turn. I just began dialysis three days a week as my kidneys have started to fail. I can function fully in ordinary daily matters but am still limited in my ability to celebrate with you on Sundays. Of course, I miss being with you each week. I hope the adjustment with the dialysis and other treatments that are currently underway will increase my stamina. The doctors are now working on a liver/kidney transplant for me. I am daily moved by the prayers and love you have shown me, especially these last 4 months. Thank You All!

I was reading an article last week in reference to the Church's response to all the changes in church and society. A phrase that keeps coming back to me was the author saying, "We are better than that". I admit, I have said that often this past year. But, as the author noted, it should really be, "We will be better than that". We know it's true. Until we let go of unnecessary thoughts or opinions - even feelings that are holding us back from listening to the Spirit, we cannot move ahead. So, embrace the future by celebrating the past of our parish homes and moving on to our new reality in the next several months.

I'm praying for us all and as I said, I feel your prayers daily. We will be better ... because we are Mother of Perpetual Help Parish and her prayers will help guide us to all that we can be.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Jeff