



ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH

413 W. 19TH ST. • COVINGTON, KY 41014
(859) 431 • 3943

8 July 2020

My dear friends:

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever!

As always, I hope and pray that this letter finds you well. It has been wonderful to be back in the church building. I have thoroughly enjoyed celebrating the Holy Mass with you in our beautifully restored church (even if we are still waiting for things to be completed). And, as a reminder, some stuff is still not complete... the “big” cross will return to the sanctuary!! We are still waiting for the completion of a number of items including: the high altar reredos, the Blessed Mother Shrine reredos, the St. Joseph Shrine reredos, the two confessionals (which will include places for the Shrines to the Sacred Heart and St. Augustine), the ambo, and communion rail (although we will not be using it for the reception of Holy Communion).

I am very happy to announce that the outside statue of St. Augustine is scheduled to arrive in Covington today (Wednesday, 8 July 2020). I am hopeful that it will be in place on the new parish sign by the weekend. However, it is coming with all of the new statues that will be placed on the façade of the Cathedral so I’m not sure of the order in which it will go up. My guess is last... so it could be Monday before it gets put in place. Pray, pray, pray, that it doesn’t break!!!

Also, if you have been past the parish campus starting around lunchtime on Tuesday, 7 July 2020, you will have noticed a few new monuments have “popped up”. Thanks to a generous donation from a diocesan parishioner we have four monuments around campus: 1. The Ten Commandments (to the left of the main entrance); 2. The Beatitudes (to the right of the main entrance); 3. The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy (in the St. Vincent de Paul Garden behind the Parish Office); and 4. The Memorare (next to the side entrance of the Rectory). We will also have a statue of the Blessed Mother which will arrive this weekend and will be placed in front of the Parish Office. It is my hope that these monuments will foster faith in our parishioners as well as in the community of Peaseburg.

I am happy to announce again that the Ambo has finally shipped from New York City and has arrived in Nebraska at the carpenter’s shop where it will be refinished. Once again it comes from the closed All Saints Church in Harlem. It was designed by famed architect James Renwick, Jr. He is the architect of both St. Patrick’s Cathedral in NYC and the Smithsonian Castle in Washington, DC. The “new” ambo is approximately 120 years old and has carvings of the 12 apostles. It is a “tulip” ambo; it is 8 feet tall and will be placed where the original ambo once stood – on the main pillar next to the Pieta.

I have been working on updating the parish website so as to keep the parishioners more informed of news in the parish. It is a slow process (at least for me). I encourage you to go there regularly; but be patient if something isn’t working... it probably means I just haven’t gotten to it yet.

In my last letter to you I announced that we would have available for purchase 150th Anniversary Apparel. That apparel is now available for purchase through the parish website. Go to the link for the 150th Anniversary. If you would like to purchase something, but don’t have a computer at home, please call the parish office. The parish will receive \$10.00 from each item sold.

Thank you to everyone who has made a gift or pledge to the Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal (DPAA). Unfortunately, as of this writing I have not yet received the report from the Diocese (those usually come out on Fridays and today is Tuesday) which shows how well we are doing. The DPAA is our opportunity

to participate in the universality of the Church! The monies raised go to support a number of ministries throughout the 14 counties of our diocese. We have been blessed throughout the years to be the recipient of a DPAA grant to help with our General Operating Expenses. Last year we received \$14,000. In addition, many of you may know that the Parish of St. Augustine only pays for the salary of one priest but benefits from having two. It is through the funds generated through the DPAA and other fundraising efforts at the Diocesan level that my salary is paid... this is because I serve as the Vicar General of the Diocese in addition to being the Pastor of our beloved parish. I kindly ask that if you haven't yet made a gift or a pledge that you please do so... even the smallest amount will help... don't forget about the poor widow from the Gospel. And after you have offered some of your treasure, would you offer some of your time by asking the Lord to bless the appeal?

In my last letter, I announced that the Parish Kitchen was moving to the neighborhood. While technically in St. Benedict's Parish Boundaries, it is only so because it is on the north side of 16th Street and Madison Ave. Everything on the south side of 16th Street and west of Madison Ave is in our parish boundaries. But, I digress. Parish Kitchen serves lunch to anyone who is hungry every day of the year, including every holiday. I would very much like to have the parishioners of St. Augustine volunteer to serve a meal to our neighbors who are hungry at least once or twice a month. Volunteers would be needed between 11:15am and 1:30pm for their "shift". The new location will open on 20 July 2020. Also, if you know someone who may be struggling and needs a meal, please let them know about this move. Call the parish office to sign up.

The Commonwealth is allowing for the resumption of Bingo, however, given the restrictions that would be required in order to conduct Bingo, we will not be reopening as of yet. This was a decision which was made at the Diocesan level for all Catholic parishes, schools and institutions... one which I wholeheartedly support.

The priests of the Diocese will once again gather at the Cathedral on the third Thursday of each month to offer a Holy Hour for those who have been harmed by sexual abuse, especially at the hands of priests. We will also pray for the sanctification of all priests. We will be practicing all the social distancing protocols. You are welcome to join us each month from 3:00pm – 4:00pm... either in person, or spiritually through your own prayers. The next third Thursday is 15 July 2020.

Thanks to those who have been able to stay after Mass to help sanitize the pews... I am very grateful. If you are willing to volunteer, just stay after Mass! Many hands make light work!

Our parish school will open to traditional instruction on Wednesday, August 12, 2020. We are working with our local "task force" to ensure that we are meeting all the necessary protocols and guidelines to provide a safe and holy learning environment for our children. Please pray for us as we undertake this monumental task. I'm also on the Diocesan Task Force... please, please, please pray for us. It is an extremely daunting task to have to make decision that effect the lives of so many people... we pray that we are following the Lord's promptings.

Finally, this coming Sunday, 12 July 2020 at the 9am Mass, I will Baptize, Confirm and offer First Holy Communion to our Catechumen, Nick Lopez. For the last year, Nick as been preparing to come into full communion with the Catholic Church. I am overjoyed to welcome him into the Church and our parish family. Please continue to pray for Nick as he enters the next phase of his formation known as Mystagogy. Congratulations Nick!!

You are constantly in my thoughts and prayers! Please pray for me.

Prayers and Blessings Always!

Very Reverend Daniel L. Schomaker
Pastor