

PASTOR'S UPDATE TO PARISHIONERS – R (5/5/20)

WHAT'S IN THIS UPDATE: (SOME URGENT ITEMS!)

- PASTORAL MESSAGE TO PARISHIONERS FROM FR. FERGUSON
- CONFESSIONS RESUMED – REMINDER
- MASS RECAP
- ADA ITEM: PARISHIONER EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – SUPPORT NEEDED
- ADA ITEM: T-SHIRT FUNDRAISING SALE – DON'T FORGET!
- KENTON ITEM: T-SHIRT FUNDRAISING SALE – DON'T FORGET!
- KENTON ITEM: HOSTAS AVAILABLE - REMINDER

PASTORAL MESSAGE TO PARISHIONERS FROM FR. FERGUSON

Greetings.

Today's "UPDATE – R" includes some important reminders, as well as a new item regarding an Eagle Scout project.

Bishop Brennan has indicated to priests that he is busy working with his Director of Evangelization and also the Diocesan Development Office to compile some resources to help parishes to "recover" from the Coronavirus shut-down. I will look over the materials as they come to us, and I will work with our staff and parish consultative bodies to look at how we can get our parish life back "on line" when we are able to gather again. Bishop has pointed out that this would be a good opportunity to make a specific effort to reach out and invite fallen-away Catholics back to church in the spirit of the New Evangelization. More info to come. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to move powerfully among us as we hopefully soon "re-open" our churches with a renewed spirit of enthusiasm and gratitude for our Catholic Faith and the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and in each other!

Finally, as a reminder, please keep making use of the **various Spiritual/Catechetical Opportunities** we've shared the last couple of weeks (see Update J).

Let's continue to ask our Risen Lord's ongoing help in the midst of our trials as we celebrate this Easter Season.

Our Mother Mary, Patron of our Hardin County Parishes, Pray for Us.

- Fr. Bill Ferguson, Pastor

CONFESSIONS RESUMED – REMINDER

REMINDER – Last week in Update P, I explained a new “**social distanced**” format of the **Sacrament of Confession** which Bishop Brennan would like parishes to offer in the coming weeks. **Please see the attachment** which gives all the necessary details, including which blocks of appointments will occur at which parish in the coming weeks, how to call and schedule your appointment for Confession, where to go when you arrive, how to prepare ahead of time, and what to expect when you arrive. This “modified Confessions” plan has already begun. The next appointment blocks of time (4:00-6:00) will be done at Our Lady of Lourdes this Wednesday (tomorrow) and Immaculate Conception this coming Sunday. **Please read the attachment carefully, especially the first two pages**, as you prepare to make use of the Sacrament of Confession as a valuable part of our relationship with Jesus.

MASS RECAP

Video of this past Sunday’s Mass is available on our YouTube channel. **To view this Mass**, please use the same YouTube link you have already been using for the Sunday

Masses: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVxcsTyz-ukNpEDHVkQWKVw>

As you know, this is the Month of Mary, and so we take joy in that we were able to crown a statue of Mary from each of our parishes at Mass this past Sunday. Keep praying to Mary, the patron of both our parishes, in the coming days and weeks as we weather through the effects of Coronavirus!

ADA ITEM: PARISHIONER EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – SUPPORT NEEDED

Donald Waters, a teen member of the Ada parish, has been planning his **Eagle Scout project**, which will benefit the parish grounds. He plans to install a “saints walk” along the front sides of the church and Hall (along with making improvements to the landscaping) to assist our parish youth (and everyone else) in learning more about some of the saints of our Faith as inspiration for their own journey of faith. Donald needs your help, though, and he is asking your support. Please see the attached flyer for more information about the project and how to help him.

ADA ITEM: T-SHIRT FUNDRAISING SALE – DON’T FORGET!

Don’t forget to order ASAP! Some interest was recently generated at Our Lady of Lourdes for a T-shirt fundraising effort to help out the local poor who may be affected by the unemployment, etc., brought on by Coronavirus, as well as the parish. This was a parishioner-generated initiative and an idea that was presented to me that came up from the grass-roots level within Ada, to benefit 50:50 the Ada parish and three agencies which are involved with serving the Ada poor. It is anticipated that local agencies will be seeing an increased demand for their services. The agencies it will benefit are the Ada Food Pantry, the Beatitudes thrift store (the former “Restore”), and LOVE, Inc., the needy assistance clearinghouse of Hardin County. To order, please see the attached flyer.

KENTON ITEM: T-SHIRT FUNDRAISING SALE – DON’T FORGET!

Don’t forget to order ASAP! Immaculate Conception is having a T-Shirt Fundraising Sale to help out the local poor who may be affected by the unemployment, etc., brought on by Coronavirus, as well as the parish. The Kenton sale will benefit 50:50 the Kenton parish as well as the agencies which serve the poor of Kenton: St. Vincent de Paul, and LOVE, Inc., the needy assistance clearinghouse of Hardin County. It is

anticipated that our local agencies will be seeing an increased demand for their services. Attached is the flyer and order form that was given to me to pass along. Please submit orders where indicated on the form. There is also an online ordering option. For questions please contact Ann Johnson at acjohnson@alumni.nd.edu.

KENTON ITEM: HOSTAS AVAILABLE – REMINDER

Jane Scharf, one of our volunteers, and who is much more knowledgeable about plants than I am, says that there is an overabundance of hostas in various parts of the grounds of Immaculate Conception. They need to be thinned out, but she doesn't want to discard perfectly good hostas. So, she is willing to make them available to parishioners who may like to replant them at home. This is the logistical information she has passed along:

“Happy spring! While we are planning our gardens and flowerbeds, it seems an appropriate time to consider the beds around the church grounds. We have many hosta plants that need thinned out and will need to find new homes. Chloe (my granddaughter) and I would like to get started on this project so if you, or someone you know, would be interested in any hostas, please let me know through email or text at jescharf77@icloud.com or (740) 244-1292. Thank you and may The Good Lord continue to bless us with new life and growth!”

We were discussing possibly making a “sale” of these hostas, but we are mainly interested in making sure they don't go to waste. If you would like to make a donation to the parish for the maintenance and upkeep of our buildings and grounds as you take some hostas (up to you), feel free to mail a contribution to our office: 222 E. North St. Thanks for everyone's support!