

PASTOR'S UPDATE TO PARISHIONERS – S (5/8/20)

WHAT'S IN THIS UPDATE:

- PASTORAL MESSAGE TO PARISHIONERS FROM FR. FERGUSON
- THIS WEEKEND'S MASS – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
- BOTH PARISHES: MOTHER'S DAY CARNATIONS
- PASTORAL RESOURCES TO HELP WITH EFFECTS OF SHUT-DOWN
- CONFESSIONS RESUMED – REMINDER
- 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 – S" includes some important reminders, as well as some new items of note.

All indications are that **our Bishop and our Diocese leadership are very busy** as we speak with putting together plans for how to "re-open" our parishes in a well-coordinated, appropriate way. This past week, Kathy, Deb, and I took part in a webinar hosted by the Diocese Office of Development & Planning on ideas and resources regarding parish communication and stewardship as we transition back to "active" life in the coming weeks and months. I plan to share those insights soon with our various parish consultative bodies; those who are volunteers in those bodies, keep an eye out in the coming days and weeks for more communications from me. Also, later today, Bishop Brennan will be having a conference call with priests on various logistics of "re-opening" the parishes. As the diocesan plans become finalized and information becomes available, I'll work with our staff and programs to coordinate things here on the local level, and I'll keep everyone apprised on what the eventual plans and requirements will be.

Thanks for everyone's patience as so many things are still "up in the air". **We also salute our parish High School seniors** as they mark what would have been their final days at school and as they would have soon observed their graduations with large gatherings and celebrations. Please keep them in your prayers as they venture on to new experiences, that they may always stay strong in their Catholic Faith and in their relationship with the Lord Jesus!

With all these difficult realities, during this Easter Season, may we unite our crosses arising from Coronavirus to Jesus **as we take hope in His Resurrection**. Let's continue to support each other as faith-filled disciples of the Lord here in Hardin County!

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).

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

- Fr. Bill Ferguson, Pastor

THIS WEEKEND'S MASS – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

This coming Sunday's Mass will be the Fifth Sunday of Easter, and will be livestreamed 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>

A **Worship Aid** for this Mass and a **bulletin for this weekend** from Dee Printing that includes the list of Daily Mass readings for the week are [here](#).

BOTH PARISHES: MOTHER'S DAY CARNATIONS

This Sunday is Mother's Day! We thank all those who have answered the call to be mothers, for their generosity and sacrifices in bringing new life into our world and caring for their children! As a gesture of gratitude for the mothers of our parishes, **we will be making available at BOTH parishes a supply of carnations. All mothers are welcome to have one!** Logistically, similar to how we handled the palms, we will place the Mother's Day carnations outside in a container, so that individuals may come and obtain them at their leisure (please respect the 'stay-at-home' orders by combining this errand with an existing essential trip). The carnations will be available from 10:30 a.m. this Sunday morning through the end of Wednesday. As with the palms, the carnations will be located as follows: at Kenton: on the front porch of the Office Building; at Ada: on the front porch of the church. **God bless all of our mothers!**

PASTORAL RESOURCES TO HELP WITH EFFECTS OF SHUT-DOWN

The effects of the stay-at-home orders during Coronavirus the past two months have been difficult on many types of people. The stresses upon people and their families have often been quite serious. Fortunately, there are **many pastoral resources** which the Diocese has recently compiled for your benefit or for the benefit of family and friends you know. A list of them is attached; especially those listed in the "second" item given there. (The "first item" mentioned by the Diocese pertains to reaching out to fallen-away Catholics as we "re-open" soon, something we definitely want to do and which I will be discussing with our parish councils and staff). **The resources listed within this attachment** can help those who are **newly unemployed, small-business owners, and couples within marriages**, among others. Please look at these resources and make use of them as desired. If anyone has need of other pastoral help or resources, always feel free to contact me as pastor at any time.

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 in the last Update (R)** 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.

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 research saints and 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 [here](#) 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 flyer attached in the last Update (R).**

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. **To order, please see the flyer attached in the last Update (R).** 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!