

Dear Members of Sacred Heart Church,

I remember very well, the first few weeks of the Pandemic and as the times became more dangerous, the buildings and campus of Sacred Heart became more deserted. During Holy Week, the Sacred Triduum and Easter Sunday, it was so eerie to spend prayer time in an empty Church and, in that silent, sacred place knowing that all of you were at home feeling so separated from the Church you loved so much and missed so deeply. I remember walking up and down the empty aisles, past the vacant pews and pausing to draw comfort from the Presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle. Whether it was Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Great Vigil, or Easter Sunday, I would stop and say to myself, “Last year, at this time, we were . . . . and next year, at this time, we will . . . .”

Yet, it was at that time and has been so ever since, that you assured me, through your cards and notes, that I was not forgotten, and through your generous offerings that your parish was not forgotten, and through your food contributions to St. Vincent DePaul that the hungry and needy of our community were not forgotten. On the Feast of the Resurrection you brought to life the words of Jesus, “Repay to God what belongs to God.” You reached out and connected with Sacred Heart across the distance and in spite of the absence from your loving hearts and continue to do so. Every day, my heart is filled with gratitude for all of you and our Church is filled with prayers of praise for the many ways the Lord continues to bless our wonderful community. Our Sunday Masses are pretty much at their maximum regarding attendance, but I am certain that, through the faith in your hearts and the love in your homes we remain in touch and in prayer.

I think of you gladly and gratefully as I hear the words of today’s Psalm:

“Give to the Lord, you families of nations,  
Give to the Lord glory and praise;  
Give to the Lord the glory due his name!  
Bring gifts, and enter his courts.”

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus keep you safe in His Love,  
*Father John*