Dear Members of Sacred Heart Parish,

Although our parish campus still seems empty and quiet (except for weekday and weekend Masses), it certainly feels like summer with the hot and humid weather that we are having. Our Masses continue to grow slowly and safely but I am also aware of the many blessings that are happening in our homes and households because, as St. Paul assures us: “We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” I am joyfully seeing and hearing all about your love for God in the way that you show your love for another – caring for family members, responding to those in need in our neighborhoods, in nurturing the faith of our young people through the summer session of our Religious Education Program, in the prayerful planning of another School year with the utmost concern for the students, their families and teachers, in the good works of those who minister at Mass, welcoming the people, proclaiming the Word and cleaning the Church between Liturgies.

In our First Reading this Sunday, The Lord says to Solomon: Ask something of me and I will give it to you.” What would we ask for? What did Solomon ask for? An understanding heart. When we experience the tension within us, the turmoil all around us, those who are suffering and those who are comforting, to ask for “an understanding heart” is, I am sure, our most fervent prayer. It is truly that costliest treasure, that priceless pearl that Jesus teaches us is what the Kingdom of heaven is like. May the Lord continue to bless our hearts with understanding and wisdom like Solomon, with humility and holiness like His own Sacred Heart. For, as that simple, beautiful song reminds us:

“We hold a treasure, not made of gold, in earthen vessels, wealth untold;
One treasure only: the Lord, the Christ, in earthen vessels.”

Have blessed week,

Father John