

June 28 2020

“Where there is no prophecy, people perish.” (Proverbs 29:18)

What a joyful weekend we had! It was exciting and filled with emotion when we were able to open our doors once again for the public celebration of the Sunday Masses. While the week was overwhelming leading up to the opening because of the restrictions placed upon us by the provincial government and the Archdiocese and complying with those restrictions, it was worth all the trouble to have people in the pews rather than a number views online.

As I mentioned in my announcements at the end of Mass, I want to thank James and Lorraine for all their assistance in making that online viewing for Masses that were live-streamed possible. Quite frankly, I would not have done it if someone had not approached me to assist. But, caught up in all the excitement, I forgot to mention two other very important individuals who made the move to a digital communication possible. First is Marilyn. When we had to close the Church doors, we also had to close our office. I had thought of emails as a way to communicate and Marilyn took up the banner and began to call as many people as possible to get their email addresses while checking in. It kept us connected. The other person is Elizabeth Pietrantonio. Elizabeth has been administrating the parish website for a few years and when we had to find ways to go online, the website became the hub of information. She worked diligently to keep up with all the news that was coming out and we did our best to stay up to date in those first few weeks when new things were coming out almost daily.

Thankfully, we had many ways to keep connected and to communicate with you when our doors closed. With the website as the hub, the email that went directly to your inbox, the Facebook and Twitter sites to push out that material to a larger audience and the Livestream Masses and online reflections, we were doing the best we could and adjusting as we went along.

However, along the way, in co-ordinating our online efforts, we asked ourselves, what is the message that we wanted to communicate through that online media? This question brought us into prayer and reflection and we wanted this message to be what you would hear when our doors would open again. The message would be something that would help us navigate through the waters, with our Blessed Mother as the star and the Holy Spirit as the wind in our sails. It would be a message that would encompass both our evangelical efforts and the stewardship way of life as disciples of Jesus Christ. It is a message that answers why be a disciple of Jesus in the first place and who we are as a parish community.

That vision is to invite the parish family to know and receive the love and fullness of life that is offered by Jesus Christ and to share His love and life with others as His disciples.

All our decisions as we now move forward in this time of pandemic and in a post pandemic world will be measured to this vision and we entrust it to Our Father in Heaven. We ask Him that what He has begun in the time of lockdown in our hearts may be brought to fulfillment according this His Will.

Father Michael Simoes