

THE GOOD NEWS



A LETTER FROM FATHER BRIAN



Dear Ignatians ~

On Sunday, March 15th we gathered as a Parish Family with Bishop Lee for his visit with us, and – although it may have been rumored as a remote possibility – who ever would have thought our campus would we be closed for an extended period of time, much less during Holy Week, for Easter, and these weeks beyond!

Terry and I were both brought up with the attitude that “*When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.*” And while these unprecedented times have been trying, some good things have resulted – especially

for me in my relationship with you as your parish priest.

I’m not a “techy” sort of person. I know, for example, that my phone is much smarter than I am. It’s capable of many things I can’t even image, yet I have mastered making calls on it – so these weeks have given me the opportunity to phone each household on our member list every week, reaching out, keeping in touch, checking-in on everyone’s wellbeing. What a blessing these weekly calls have been for me (and will be for the duration of shelter-in-place).

Before all this, I knew everyone by first name; and until mid-March I’d greet you at the church door after Eucharist with a “good morning,” “nice to see you,” “you’re looking good,” and “have a good week.” It all seemed perfectly appropriate and even satisfactory, yet there weren’t many opportunities for actual conversations of substance. My weekly calls to you now during shelter-in-place have given me wonderful opportunities to talk to you as your priest and as your friend. *Lemonade!*

I suspect that as we begin the phases which will return us to some sense of normalcy I will hear more

and more “leave a message” greetings – but that will, in a sense, be a good sign that we’re returning to being out and about. Still, I very much value and appreciate the conversations we’re having these days – hearing your stories, assuring you of prayer, keeping posted on prayer requests, and reminding you that “If there’s anything I can do for you, I’m never any farther away than a phone call or an e-mail.” *Lemonade!*

And the word “zoom” has certainly taken on an entirely new meaning for me!

It has been such a joy to see your faces on screen for our Sunday worship at 8 and 10. And our “open mic” Wednesday evening gatherings have been especially nice – all of us able to see one another and re-connect through conversations across the screen. A la *The Brady Bunch*, how enjoyable it is for us to look around our screens and see and talk to one another. *More Lemonade!*

Yes, and the Vestry met via zoom, as well as the God’s Will leads, plus 1st Sunday Evening Prayer and the 1st Saturday Men’s Breakfasts, too. *Still more Lemonade!*

What’s next? Here is a May 1st letter from Bishop Lee:

Yesterday, Governor Pritzker issued a modified stay-at-home order that allows Illinois residents to leave their homes "to engage in the free exercise of religion," so long as services "comply with Social Distancing Requirements and the limit on gatherings of more than ten people in keeping with CDC guidelines for the protection of public health."

I appreciate the governor's reaffirmation of the importance of religious freedom, and, like you, I look forward eagerly to the day when we can return to our churches and celebrate the Eucharist. I must ask, however, that you continue to abide by the suspension of all in-person worship, meetings and events in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago until the end of May.

As Christians, we are called upon to love and care for our neighbors, particularly those who are most vulnerable. For the next month, we can best do this by observing social distancing and minimizing travel.

I am working with leaders from across the diocese on what a carefully phased return to our churches might look like, and I hope to be able to share some preliminary details about our work soon. For now, please continue to gather for worship online and conduct your pastoral ministries by teleconference or telephone, and know that as always, you are in my prayers.

Faithfully, Bishop Jeffrey Lee

These are truly historic times, previously unimaginable, the stuff of science fiction; yet how exciting to be living when we are! I look forward to the “*carefully phased return to our church*” that will allow us to begin being together again. I want to see your faces – even if with masks. I want to be in church with you – even if socially distanced. I want to continue our journey of walking in love as Christ taught us together.

I am optimistic and positive because, after all, *history* is *his-story* – and the Good News is: *he* is risen, *he* is with us, *he* is watching over us, and *he* has great plans for each of us and our future together.

Holy Lemonade, Alleluia!!!

~ Fr. Brian

(920) 904-7025; brian.beno51@gmail.com

[SIGNS OF THE TIMES](#)

Fr. Brian's note: Easter is more than a day. It's a season of fifty days during which we focus on recognizing the risen Lord's presence rising within us and all around us. Consider this recent column from one of my favorite bloggers, Fr. Jay Sidebotham:

I was talking with a wise friend last week. She noted that a number of her friends had commented on the beautiful weather we've been having here in North Carolina. It has indeed been stunning. But she wondered: Is it distinctively so? Maybe it's always been this nice. Maybe we just didn't notice.

I've been thinking of the Easter sermons I've heard in recent weeks. As I shelter in place, my inner church-geek surfaces so that I've listened to sermons from all kinds of churches. A few questions have come through repeatedly: How was the resurrected Jesus revealed to folks? What did it mean to see him? What did it mean to recognize him? How did folks come to discover that his presence had been with them all along?

Surely many in our world today face doom and gloom due to the current health crisis. People near and far are going through hell. More lies ahead. Lord, have mercy. We are called to pray for them, with them, in word and action.

But another thing is happening. People are discovering holy presence in new ways, in the midst of our current challenge. That presence is being revealed. I've seen it in simple things: Basic kindness in traffic or at grocery stores. We've become a lab for love of neighbor. Families dining together, putting down phones and actually conversing. Watching Sunday church together over pancakes. Gardens tended, celebrating beauty. Prayer as one of many spiritual practices bringing sustenance. An admission of a hunger for community. A recognition of love of liturgy.

Casting a broader vision, we see the courage (bravery + heart) of health care workers, retired doctors heroically running towards the epicenter from all over the country, firemen running towards burning buildings, reckless generosity of funds. All of it is a revelation of what is important and what is not. I'm wondering what is being revealed to *you* in this time.

These days, there's talk of going back to the way things were, to normal, whatever that was. My guess is that will not happen. Perhaps it shouldn't. The Bible speaks of a new heaven and a new earth, tears wiped away, lion and lamb living in a peaceable

kingdom, neither a child nor an old person victim of illness. Perhaps, without knowing exactly what that will look like, we can move towards that new life and find it a place where equity and compassion, service and community, faith and love become more real. Are you ready for that to happen?

What are *you* noticing these days? How is the resurrected Jesus revealed to *you*? What does it mean to see him? What does it mean to recognize him? How do we come to discover that his presence has been with us all along?

~ Fr. Jay Sidebotham

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR WARDENS

Greetings,

We hope this finds you all well and not losing your minds. We believe this is week 6 of our time alone. There has been a lot of talk on both sides of the equation about the severity of this whole pandemic and whether it is worth "ruining our economy" for the sake of "a few lives". I think back to other times in our history where people did not heed warnings. "The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty." Proverbs 10:9.

We know a lot of people who are starting to throw caution to the wind and get back to "normal life". We do not think everyone would like to get back to services in our church and socializing with each other. We know a lot of us are longing to get the resale shop back open and helping others through this ministry. A lot of us would just like to visit with our family and share good and bad times. PATIENCE....."You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. Psalm 32:7. In his own time GOD will lift the veil, open the curtain, re-start the show. We must all be patient and keep on trusting in GOD.

We know that in time we will all be back together in our beautiful building, hugging and rejoicing with each other. Be patient...

We look at this time as a prolonged Lenten season and when the time comes, and our Lord rises it will be a new beginning. An Easter like never-before. When that time comes, and it will, we will have a glorious celebration and share in our new beginning. In the meantime, keep attending as many of our ZOOM meetings as you are able, keep praying for each other, our church, and the world.

As always, if anybody has any special needs, let us, your wardens, know and we will do whatever is in our power to help. If anyone needs a ride for a medical appointment, prescriptions picked-up, groceries delivered, or whatever needs you may have, please let us know.

Yours In Peace
Kathy & Mike (Your Wardens)

[UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE](#)

I have news I want to share. I so wish I could do it face-to-face because you know there's a whole story I would like to share and I would bend your ear for far too long. So, consider yourself lucky that I am limited to a long story made short.

Dave and I are putting our house on the market on May 11 and will be ultimately moving to Marion, Illinois after it has been sold.

Dave's parents built a house on Lake of Egypt about 18 years ago. It's a great fishing lake and all of Dave's family are huge fishermen. We have enjoyed vacations there every year. It was always our plan to retire there as Dave's parents were leaving the house to him when they passed. That seemed a long time away.

Here's the long story made short. Dave's mom passed away several years ago and Dave's dad has moved to smaller quarters. He is unable to keep up two properties so a decision needed to be made whether the house should be sold or whether we

would make the move now. We struggled a bit with what to do but the factor that really made up our mind is that Dave's dad really needs us there due to health issues. Decision made! A little scary but a little exciting and A LOT of work.

When the house sells, I will be leaving St. Ignatius and my job as Office Coordinator, Treasurer, and Vestry Clerk. In a perfect world, I would like to be able to help train a new Treasurer for a month or so before I leave. I shared with the vestry that essentially, since I am both the Office Coordinator and the Treasurer, the two jobs have pretty much melded together for me. There are ebbs and flows with both positions and, in my opinion, it really makes sense to combine them. I mentioned, and frankly encouraged Fr. Brian the vestry to consider this scenario going forward. A decision has not officially been made whether they will take my advice.

If you would be interested in any of the positions, you may contact me and we can, at the very least, discuss the duties so you can consider it further. The same is true if you know someone who is not a parishioner who may be suitable for one of the positions, pass my number on to them. I can be reached at 847-452-7545. Of course, the final decision will be made by Fr. Brian with input from the vestry.

I am sure that this social distancing will soon be over (from my mouth to God's ear) and I will still be able to bend your ear for a while. Can't wait!

~ Faye Nash

[ST. IGNATIUS CARES](#) [May Crafts for Children](#)

Due to the "Shelter in Place" directive, the **St. Ignatius Community Fun Days** have been put on hold. In an effort to continue to reach out to children at St. Ignatius and to children in the community, we will be offering a "craft by mail" program until our doors reopen.

Please encourage children you may know to participate.

- There is no charge: FREE, FREE, FREE
- Crafts are geared to children ages 4-8 however, all children are welcome.
- Four different crafts will be mailed to each participant during May.
- All supplies for each craft will be included in the mailing.
- Children/Parents do not need to be members of St. Ignatius.

Malinow. They are willing to give of their time to this summer's task. And I am sure they would welcome some additional helping hands.

Incidentally, weed whacking is another task that needs to be occasionally attended to.

Please e-mail your availability to rvanpatten@sbcglobal.net.

With much appreciation,
Roger Van Patten

**To register, please call Faye at the Church
Office: (847) 395-0652 or
Terry Hansen-Beno at (920) 904-7026**

HELP!

Now that we've stashed the snow shovel and dug out the lawn mower, it's time to ask for help in caring for the church grounds. We need volunteers to undertake the lawn mowing task of our church grounds.

I would like to set up a mowing schedule that goes through the summer, if possible. To do so, I need volunteer names and times each will be available. Actually, I'd like to set up two schedules. One for using the walk-behind mower and one for the riding mower.

The task for the walk-behind mower is to mow close to the building perimeter so that the riding mower does not have to weave in and out around light fixtures on the east side or roll over any brick edging on the west side. The remainder of perimeter needs to be mowed out a distance from the building of about 6 to 8 feet. This is to keep grass clippings from the riding mower from being thrown against the building walls, windows, and air conditioner units. For the same reasons, I'd like at least two laps made around the church sign.

If you can volunteer some of your time to one or both mowing adventures, please let me know soon. For the past two plus years this task has been handled mainly by two individuals, Jack Fields and Bill