

Statement for Website
From Fr. Michael Basque

26 May 2020

First, a few things you should know:

- Today, I participated in a “virtual” Deanery Meeting with the Bishop and pastors from the St. Catharines-Thorold area. The Bishop informed us a document is being prepared which outlines the protocols which will be in place when Catholic Parishes across the province re-open in the future. While no timeline has been given for when this will occur, it appears the Churches will be able to provide a full complement of services all at once (rather than a gradual increase over time.). The document is quite extensive (about 57 pages long) and when I am able to share its contents with you, I will post the important points on this website.
- Fr. Ben Weber has resumed Drive-In Masses at St. Denis Parish and while everyone is welcome to participate, there is a limited number of parking spots (since cars must stay six feet apart).
- Once again, a thank you to those who are continuing to financially support the Parish by dropping off your Offertory Envelopes through the Parish Office Door Mail Slot, Direct Deposit or the Donations tab on the Parish website. Thanks also for those who are continuing to provide non-perishable food and toiletries as well as cash to our St. Vincent DePaul Society so they can help the needy in our community. Thank-you also to the volunteers who are doing this important work every Thursday in the Parish Hall.

When I was growing up, I was taught by my parents to share what I had with others. At first, this meant if I had a bag of potato chips I had to give some to my brother. As I grew up, I began to realize there were other things I could share with people. I could spend time with a new kid in class who had no friends. I could show someone who was struggling to learn English how to pronounce words properly. I could shovel snow from the driveway of an elderly neighbour. In time, I learned the most important thing you can share is not your stuff, time, talents or labor, but yourself.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus prays to his Father “for the words that you gave to me I have given to them and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you”. When Jesus spoke these words at the Last Supper, he knew he would soon be leaving his disciples on earth and returning to his Father in heaven. During his earthly ministry, Christ shared with them his teaching about God’s plan for the redemption of sin and the salvation of the world. He revealed his desire to overcome the effects of sin in the world through his healings and miracles. As the time for his departure from earth grew near, he prepared them for this change by demonstrating the importance of humility and service in the life of a disciple by washing their feet. Soon Christ would pass on to them the most important thing he had: his mission. Everything the Father had given him was now shared with his followers. Upon his departure from earth, he would regain the glory he had shared with the Father in heaven while his disciples glorified him in the world by their ministry. Christ’ sharing of himself would now know no limits.

Catholics and other people of faith are called to share their time, talent and treasure with others. In the past, they have participated in efforts to care for the poor, sick and other vulnerable groups. This Covid-19 crisis has certainly provided believers with the opportunity to increase the quantity of their sharing. They can provide financial support to help the needy or supply personal protective equipment to vulnerable workers. They can spend time looking in on elderly family, friends or neighbours. They can provide volunteer labour at a local food bank. Yet, what about the quality of that sharing? Jesus gave his disciples everything He had. While there is a limit to how much an individual can share with others, at a certain point donor fatigue becomes an issue. People start thinking “I have given enough” or “I gave more

than most people". For Christians, the standard of measurement is not others but themselves. How much of myself have I really shared? Although no one can give as much as Christ, he does set the standard for his followers. Some day, he may ask us if we think we really gave what we could in 2020. How are we going to answer that question?

Giving of yourself can be costly. That is why it is so important.