



St Helen Catholic Church & School

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Greetings in the Resurrected Christ, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!!!!

Dear Beloved parishioners,

Allow me to extend my sincere and heartfelt gratitude and acknowledgement for your prayers and support during this unprecedented and unanticipated situation in which none of us is imminent. In the spirit of Easter allow me also to wish once again Happy Easter.

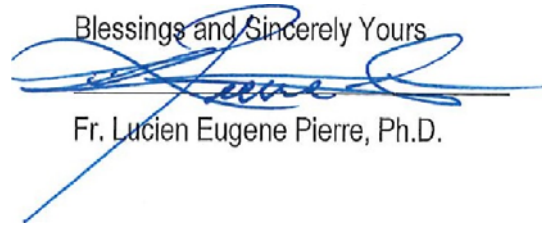
The letter of St. Peter (1 Peter 5-10) is a great inspiration for us. St. Peter wrote to the followers of Jesus who were in exile, in uncertain and difficult times, to trust in the truth of the Resurrection, to put their faith and hope in God; and work to restore, support and strengthen those who are suffering. We too are living an unprecedented reality of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our world is on its knees and turned upside down. Fear, insecurity, and anxiety concerning how COVID-19 affect us and will continue. Many of us have lost our loved ones, and family members are isolated. We may feel overwhelmed by a plethora of information from social media that terrifies us. We tend to lose our sense of humanity, we are not able to touch, to embrace, to feel the human warmth, to kiss, to hug and to shake hands. All these wonderful things that humanize our relationships and make us more human. Thanks, and praise be to God of the Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, blessed are we Christians Coronavirus cannot stop us from touching God, In creating us, God has touched us, and His very breath is in us. We can touch God even though He is invisible to our physical eyes. He is not absent; the heart has the capacity to bring us closer to God and to each other. The heart and love, the heart and friendship, the heart and beauty, the heart and pardon, The heart and true joy, the heart and contemplative silence, the heart and art, the heart and prayer, the heart and self-giving, the heart and life, the heart and compassion, the heart and mercy, the heart and gratitude. It is the heart that makes us closer.

Thanks be to the Resurrected Christ! our faith commends us to do otherwise, to not be consumed by fear, insecurity, and anxiety. As followers of Jesus, we put our trust in God who raised Jesus from the dead and who, by the power of the Holy Spirit, sends us to be about God's mission. Now is the time for us to be the Church and Christian community that God wants us and needs us to be. We need to continue to support each other and your faith community with your prayer and financial assistance. Due to the COVID-19 we cannot have mass or gather to celebrate our faith. We need to adjust and adapt until we come back to our routine. In the meantime, I continue to offer sacrifice for you, your family, our students, the faculty, and staff here at St. Helen on the altar every day. I carry you in my heart everyday with the love of Christ. I continue to monitor everything, our school is online, our Live Stream Eucharistic celebration on Facebook; until we resume our regular schedule. I encourage you, my brothers and sisters, to hold firm your faith and take this opportunity to reflect on your relationship with the Lord. One must think long and hard at Jesus on the cross to be absolutely convinced of His loving fondness and care for us. "You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD' Is 62:3. Jesus' final words on

the cross in Luke are a quote from SS., "And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said: 'Father} into Your hands, I commit My spirit'. Having said this, He breathed His last." Lk 23:46, In the multiplication of loaves Jesus said: "Have the people recline." John 6:7 We must learn to relax in the hands of the Risen Jesus, which still have the mark of the nails! When Christ appeared to His apostles, He dealt with their terrible fear and unbelief with the words: "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see." That is our vaccine for fear and courage to live!

Let me tell you, my dear parishioners, even though social distancing and shelter-in place have become a way of life with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Holy Spirit finds ways for us to still proclaim the Good News in all the ways we can communicate with each other. In our hurt, we might not feel able to reach out to others, but in the hope we have in the Resurrection, and by the power of the Spirit, we can be healed and share with others what God has given to us. We have seen the Spirit at work. We have seen much compassion and generosity. Such is the power of the Spirit! So, we do not hold back the gift of the Spirit given to us. Instead, may we let Jesus into our hearts, and be healed. May we follow where the Spirit leads us, and may the Good News, even in times like this, be proclaimed! Do not be afraid and receive the Holy Spirit!!

Blessings and Sincerely Yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre, Ph.D.", written over a horizontal line.

Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre, Ph.D.