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Dear Parishioners;

I am sure that we have all had a very hard week processing just how it is the Maple Leafs managed to get themselves eliminated from the NHL playoffs so easily and so quickly, yet again. I could waste this entire letter giving you my insightful analysis of what went wrong and how the Leaf brain trust can solve their problems going forward, but that would bore even me.

I will repeat this one observation about all sports that in no way is uniquely mine but that I subscribe to without reservation. And that is; defense wins championships.

Not to despair Leaf Nation, all will be well. I understand that they just went out and signed a really good Russian player, his name is Tee-Off. Now, at least, I can go ahead and pin all of my hopes and dreams on the Blue Jays, and what could possibly go wrong with that plan. I should probably be a good sport and wish the Canucks well, but after all the pandemic has asked us to compromise and sacrifice, I think I have to draw the line somewhere.

Much more important than all of that, is the effort that is going into the opening of our schools. And what is true in sports is also true when fighting a pandemic, and that is that if we are going to succeed, we are going to have to have a strong and effective defense.

It maybe true that children are better able to manage this virus than other age groups, but the problem is that we can't just put the kids in a school bubble from September to June. Even the idea of having social bubbles is proving to be a false sense of security as we weigh risk versus hanging out with the people we love and who make us laugh. We can't just assign a person or a group of people as our new bubble just because we want to spend time with them. We would be much better off being honest about the risk that we are willing to take, so that we at least commit ourselves to doing what is within our power to keep other people safe.

My heart goes out to all the parents and school staffs who are struggling to manage the risks of opening our schools. Part of being an effective teacher is being prepared and understanding exactly how you want the school year to unfold. Teachers start out the year with a detailed plan for the year and then they prepare a lesson plan for every day, so that they do their best to keep to their goals and curriculum. So you can imagine what the pandemic is doing to their comfort levels, to say nothing of now having the added responsibility of seeing to the health of so many in their charge. It is a lot to ask and they need our daily prayers.

And how difficult it must be for the parents, especially if they are fortunate enough to have grandparents near enough to share their bubbles or even more, share the load of caring for the kids.

We are being told though, how important it is for the kids to be in school, not just to keep them on their learning track, but for their social and mental well being. So there is a lot at stake here, and there is a lot of stress out there when we should be enjoying the lazy, hazy days of summer. I found this prayer that we can offer for our best intentions for the students.

Loving God, You are the source of all of our blessings and we thank you for the gift of our children. Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore. Give us the strength and courage to treat each day as a fresh start.

May our children come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope, and love, so they may know peace, truth, and goodness.

May their ears hear your voice.

May their eyes see your presence in all things.

May their lips proclaim your word.

May their hearts be your dwelling place.

May their hands do works of charity.

*May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ,
your Son and our Lord. Amen.*

May God be gracious to us and bless us, now and forever.

Pat Monette/Pastor Go Canucks Go