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Dear Parishioners;

I have discovered that one advantage of having to wear a mask in public, is that you can complain out loud about the people around you, and especially those who refuse to wear a mask and who at the same time don't understand the concept of Social Distancing. And you can do it without them knowing who it is that you are complaining about. At worst, they just think that you have slipped a gear or two.

But I need to be careful though, because if I don't change that habit once they get us a vaccine, someone sometime isn't going to take it well. I heard this line in a movie one time about the character who had gotten beaten up. They said that his mouth wrote a cheque that his face couldn't cash. Meaning that he had shot his mouth off and someone else shut it for him. But you have to find some way to enjoy wearing the mask, especially in the heat that they are having here.

Last week I went and visited my Uncle Larry. You will recall that Uncle Larry had had surgery a while ago and that he has a lengthy stay in the Intensive Care Unit. He is doing well enough. He is on that Seniors' merry-go-round where you end up spending more time with your doctors and medical staff than you do with your own family. The virus, of course, doesn't do anything to help that. But he is in good spirits, but he waiting for a little more surgery.

We talked about my Dad, who is Uncle Larry's oldest brother. And I reminded Uncle Larry about what Dad said about minor surgery. Dad used to say that the difference between major surgery and minor surgery is that minor surgery is what happens to you. Uncle Larry has been a faithful Catholic his whole life and he very much appreciated your prayers and concern for him.

I need to hurry this up because they are going to be broadcasting the first live Blue Jays "Any Kind of Baseball" event tonight, and I am going to make Mom say that she doesn't mind watching it with me. The virus has made it difficult to

hope about much these days, but it sure is nice to hear people talking about sports and the possibility of them playing for something that matters.

Now, in last weeks Gospel, Jesus went on about the sower and the seeds. And he finished by saying; "But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty and in another thirty."

That is a heck of a promise. I always say that if we only knew just how God uses our prayers and our good intentions for the good of those whom we love and for the world around us, that we would never leave the church. And so I think that it is important that we remember that not knowing can be a gift from God too. Because then we can take our rest and not feel so guilty about it.

What I think is that the older we get and the less able we are to lift a shovel to help our neighbour, the more powerful our prayers become. So that in our youth our prayers may be multiplied thirty times, but when we are having to struggle with the cross of old age, then our prayers are most powerful. And it is important that we let the Holy Spirit encourage us in the work of the disciple. It can be far too easy for us to feel more like a burden, when in fact, God is actually making better use of our faith and our generous heart than ever before.

Since God can do anything and everything He wants, we have to believe every day that we get is vital to the Lord, and that what love we are willing to expresses by our prayers and our kindness is always blessed in such a way that we are always cherished by the Lord, even if we feel that the world has passed us by.

I found this prayer for the disciple who wants to pick up our crosses daily and follow Jesus;

Today and all days, embrace us in a love that knows no end.

Today and all days, fill us with a power that overcomes.

Today and all days, encourage us with a word that nourishes.

Today and all days, inspire us with a hope that sustains.

Today and all days, comfort us with a peace that endures.

Today and all days, bring wholeness of body, mind and spirit.

Today and all days. Amen.

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

Pat Monette/Pastor