

Companions on the Journey

May 29, 2022

Dear Friends,

Recently I was tested positive for the corona virus. I had been very blessed to escape that fate for twenty-seven months since the outbreak back in March 2020 I have received two vaccine shots and one booster. As we all now know that alone does not guarantee that a person will not come down with covid. As near as I can ascertain my case is not particularly severe. I did have a temperature that went to one hundred but did not last long and has settled down more or less in the normal range. The initial headache also subsided. The congestion in my lungs has remained and the cough attached to the congestion is still around. I am taking a lot of liquids and various vitamins and other supplements which are designed to be helpful.

The biggest side effect is lethargy. I find that I take a nap in the morning for about an hour and another in the afternoon for perhaps ninety minutes. Two naps in one day is a little bit of heaven but I would just as soon have my usual energy restored and be able to do the pastoral ministry here. While it is not very strenuous physically to celebrate Eucharist it does need a certain level of emotional and spiritual energy. As a result, I have not been up to celebrating Mass since diagnosed on the 17th.

The main concern I have personally is that I am scheduled to lead our pilgrimage to the Holy Land this Wednesday and the last thing I want to do is to be the source of infection for anyone else. Please pray for me and for all the members on the trip that it is just what Our Dear Lord wants it to be for them.

On the good news front, Father Michael Saban is being assigned here as a Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor) as of the 20th of June this year. Father Saban was most recently the pastor of Saint Bernadette Parish in Drexel Hill. He has elderly parents and this re-assignment will move him into closer proximity to them. I know you will make Father Saban welcome and I know I will. He is a godsend and his presence will ease the ministerial responsibilities. Please greet him with your customary hospitality. And if the truth be told, when I learned of this I took to my Journal and thanked the Lord for sending another priest. In that moment the Lord said to me that I had no idea how many of my parishioners had been praying for just such a thing to happen. And so my question is: Have you all been braying for me behind my back? Well, I like it! Keep it up. The more the merrier. I pray for all of you too.

In the Peace of Christ,
Msgr. McHenry