

† From the desk of Fr. Peter

My dear family of All Saints,

It has been a real whirlwind since I returned to assume my new responsibilities. Many have told me that they were touched by my first letter which expressed my longstanding love for you. What has truly blown me away is how reciprocal that love is on your part. It is expressed in countless ways through the many sacrifices so many of you make for the Church, our beloved parish, and for your priests. In the light of your goodness, I am truly struck by my own unworthiness and inadequacies. Given this fact, I find consolation in the words of St. Augustine in his sermon on pastors. He says, "Now if there are good sheep then it follows that there are good shepherds, since a good sheep will naturally make a good shepherd." So, my hope is that, inspired by your selfless generosity and love, I may rise to be the shepherd that such outstanding sheep deserve.

I am inspired by our three deacons who have consecrated themselves to the Lord's service even as they carry the weight and responsibilities of "real world" cares and concerns. I am inspired by staff who go above and beyond what is ever asked of them and for which we can never pay them enough for all they do. I am inspired by those who volunteer to clean up our two churches with such care and devotion, unseen by all but God and His saints. I am inspired by those who lovingly feed the hungry in our community with such kindness as if they were helping their own family. I am inspired by one who has carried on her father's legacy of faith by dedicating countless hours for almost eighteen years not because she loves Bingo, but, because she, like her father, who has gone to rest, loves our parish. How can such devotion ever be repaid? How can I ever think I am doing enough in light of such sacrifice?

I now have only had just a glimpse of how many people heroically do so much unseen by most and am moved with love and gratitude. If you are one of them, I just want you to know that God sees and I hope that over time I may see and thank you on His behalf and on behalf of our parish family. In Spanish, it is said, "Que Dios se Los pague" which means, "May God pay you." Since, ultimately, I know all that is done here is for His glory, I pray that the Lord bless you all abundantly, for your many acts of love, known and unknown. These are the acts that bind us together and move us forward. Please know that, while I may not yet have seen the full scope of all that goes on at All Saints, what I have seen, makes me give thanks to God for all of you and inspires me to strive to be a better shepherd for such a wonderful flock.



*In Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I am,*

*Father Peter*