

(Originally sent on May 13)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima! It has been 103 years since Mary first appeared to the three children at Fatima. Also, today we celebrate the life of St. John Paul II as on this day in 1981 he was said to have been saved by the hand of Mary on this feast as there was an attempted assassination of him in St. Peter's Square. May our Blessed Mother continue to be with us and pray for us as we make our journey through this time together.

Also, on this great feast day I wanted to announce a great blessing that has come up for us during the stay at home order. In recent years, the diocese has been trying to get to the spot where priests are not living in the same place as the parish offices. Fr. David and I have been looking for an opportunity to make that happen for several years and the Lord has recently provided.

Bob Broerman, who has helped out in many ways here at St. Mary's and is also the parish trustee at St. Joseph's in Flanagan, contacted me about two months ago, and let me know that the home he owns just north of our playground at 522 North Chicago Street had both the upstairs and downstairs available to rent. He also mentioned that he would like to have both of them rented as soon as he could. I thought this could be a great opportunity with it being literally across the street from the school.

After many conversations with our finance council via the computer, some discussion with the diocese and a great deal of patience on the part of Bob Broerman, we have reached a very good rental agreement with Bob. Fr. David's parishes will cover half of the rent and St. Mary's will cover the other half of the rent, and Bob also gave us a good rate.

Bob was also gracious enough to hold off some potential renters during the time so we could make the necessary decisions as a finance council. The Finance Council unanimously agreed that this was a very good decision for our parish going forward, and we will be moving in this Friday.

The current rectory, which from here forward will be called the St. Mary's Parish Center, will have many more opportunities for gathering space and so on. The parish leadership and the building committee will be discussing that information as we move forward.

God is definitely providing in many ways right now and this is one of those great blessings that has come our way at this time that I wanted the whole parish to be able to celebrate together on this Feast of Our Lady of Fatima!

May God continue to guide and bless you all and may you always be assured of the prayers of our Blessed Mother!

In Christ,
Father Adam