

The Cathedral Star

January 2021

Vol. XXIII No. 1

Stewardship Edition

2♥21

Stewardship - an act of the heart

The good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good. Luke 6:45

A Prayer for the Cathedral

God, our Almighty Father,

I believe that You are the source of every blessing and
You have blessed me with all that I have and all that I am.

Help me to humbly enter the grace of giving as well as into the joy of serving.

Grant me the eyes to see; the ears to hear;
and a heart so that I connect with the members of our family of faith
to encourage everyone to become the best version of themselves.

Satisfy my appetite to educate myself with knowledge of my Catholic faith
that will become knowledge of You.

Ignite my passion to inspire others to follow Christ as faithful disciples
and to fulfill my mission in this time and place with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and ask Our Lady of the Assumption, our Patroness
to intercede for me and my family.

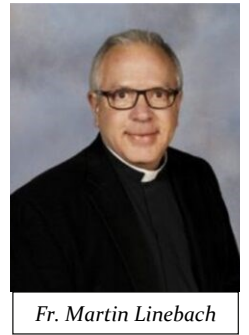
+Amen.

CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION

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January 20, 2021

Dear Cathedral Family of Faith,



The history of the Catholic Church is full of remarkable moments where Holy Mother Church has faced all sorts of difficulties. In her history, are stories of persecution, famine, plague, and all sorts of great suffering. However, never in all Christian history has the Church faced such a prolonged period of not being able to gather in person as we have faced these past months. I know that you join me in praying that the damaging effects of COVID-19 will be healed and that we grow stronger in faith and better in relationships by what we have experienced and learned.

During the end of the month in January and the month of February, we will be engaged in our Stewardship Renewal Process for the upcoming year. In my short time as your Pastor and Rector of the Cathedral, I am amazed at the variety of ways we are serving Christ and His Church. And we are doing so in excellent ways that have demanded perseverance, patience, and creativity along with a lot of hard work! But our faith is in the words of Saint Augustine – “ever ancient, ever new.” Our lives are about our relationship with Christ, our relationship with one another, and how we bring Christ to others. To this end, we are simply doing what the Lord has assigned us to do.

I am beginning now to determine my stewardship pledge. I encourage you to do the same. In some ways my contribution with time and talent is a joyful obligation inherent in my priestly life and ministry. It always feels uncomfortable to speak about money in parish life, but it is a reality that we need financial resources to provide the spiritual, pastoral, educational, and charitable ministries for our beloved Cathedral and those entrusted to our care. As I am fond of saying, “Jesus’ love is free; everything else costs.”

Please know that my love for you continues to grow. My first prayer each morning and my last prayer each night is for you. May the good Lord continue to be generous in His love for us and may He bless you abundantly for your goodness. Shall we turn to Saint Joseph as well during this year dedicated to him. And may Our Lady of the Assumption continue to bring us ample blessings and graces.

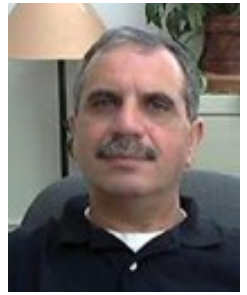
Devotedly yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin A. Linebach". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Very Rev. Martin A. Linebach, V.G.
Rector

January 20, 2021

Dear Faith Family,



George Kaissieh

If you had told me in February or even March of last year that the streets in downtown Louisville would be empty, that Fourth Street Live would be deserted on a Saturday evening, restaurants would have empty chairs, highways would be clear for months—if you had told me that all these things were to come, I wouldn't have believed you. The thing about it is that I had plans for last year, goals that I set for myself to accomplish—but little did I know that God had other plans. I, as well as many others, have been fed the idea that we are in control—and the biggest lesson I learned from this pandemic is that I/we don't control anything at all. We are fragile human beings at the mercy of God.

As we take a moment to reflect on the year that has passed, we see the presence of loss, anger and pain seep into our skin, touching our souls in different ways. It can seem dark at times when all we are surrounded by is a world grieving a year it thought it would have been so different. In a society that wishes to return to a pre-pandemic life, I ask you, how can our faith grow if we are constantly looking for it in our past self? Was our faith dormant? Was it shallow? Was it not enough? If so, how can we embrace the new year in a way that inspires us to revive, renew, and deepen our faith? This pandemic has not only taken precious moments, lives, and experiences from us, but it has also given us an opportunity to stop, breathe, reflect, and understand what God is calling us to be.

For us to put things in perspective, we have to go back to reading our bible. From the stories that are uncovered, we learn a most powerful lesson—that going back to a state of being that was uncomfortable should not be an option. We are at a crossroad to either retreat to that safe place of ours or to allow God to transform us to that new person that God is inviting us to embrace and to explore.

Our spirits these days live in a sea of turmoil over the pandemic. Our vulnerabilities, job stability, family conflicts, health challenges and a whole host of life-confronting issues have been heightened through the last 9 months. As faith-filled people who are expected to be hopeful and trusting, even when our coming days are foggy, we could take comfort and guidance from the words of Padre Pio, "Pray, hope, and don't worry." When our faith should shape our vision and future planning, as we get lost in the commotions of our daily lives and hidden insecurities, we may still find ourselves in this constant doubt and fear of what tomorrow holds for us. Granberg-Michaelson says, "We are so prone to planning and control, to wanting outcomes. But there are times when we have to step out without knowing and having any assurance of what the outcome will be and opening the space where we can ask the questions that we most need to ask, why are

you, who you are, where you are?"

The question that we are left with to answer is how do we conquer our fear? The Covid Vaccine is giving hope to the majority and leaving a few of us in doubt about its efficacy. This pandemic has us living in fear—we fear hugging each other, we fear shaking hands, we fear being close. The six feet apart is becoming our new Ten Commandments, and the social distancing is turning into our Creed. The heart of all of this is our fear. The way Jesus defeated death through his resurrection is the same way we defeat fear, by not only following the medical advice, but by having a message of hope—hope that no matter how long the night will be, the sun will always rise.

Then the challenge with which we are charged is how can we become stronger and more involved by reflecting on the lessons that we have learned through this pandemic.

Joshua and Caleb went into the Promised Land knowing that the Philistines, giant humans, could crush them, but they trusted that God would protect them throughout that journey. We can choose to live like the rest of the Israelites who did not trust God—living in fear and dying in the desert. Or we can live like Joshua and Caleb, choosing to trust God and moving forward to explore the fullness of what God wants us to become.

For those of us who are staying home awaiting the time when we feel safe to come back to worship, and for the ones currently attending church, we are tasked to help Father Linebach in adding more blocks to this edifice that this community built and continues to build under the leadership of the bishops and pastors/liturgical ministers who have been instrumental in leading and safeguarding the faith that has been passed on and entrusted to all of us, a faith that is part of this living, breathing Church and community of ours.

There is so much we can do individually and as a community to make this world a better place, but the key to doing it right is through a life of prayer. Prayer is how we find God's voice in the midst of this chaos, it blocks all the noises and the distractions and enables us to see ahead with clarity.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)



George Kaissieh, Pastoral Associate
Director of Stewardship