

February 25, 2018

Dear Parishioners,

I've asked Father Tony to share this letter with you today in order to let you know what is happening with me and with the parish.

Two weeks ago I began having some health issues, all of which came on very quickly. After a barrage of tests and procedures, this Tuesday the doctors diagnosed my condition as Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. I was immediately admitted to the hospital, where further tests have shown the lymphoma to be at stage 4.

As you may know, Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma is a serious—but treatable—form of cancer. But, as one of the doctors here reminds me on a regular basis, "Everyone's cancer is his own cancer." In other words, no one can predict whether treatment will be effective, or how effective any treatment will be. With this in mind, I've elected to begin the aggressive chemotherapy regimen recommended by the medical team, and to evaluate whether to continue at each stage. This will necessitate my being away from the parish for at least the next two months.

Please be assured that life at St. Anne will continue as normal. I am very grateful to Father Tony and the rest of the Parish Staff who have already stepped forward to ensure that our Masses, ministries and programs will continue as usual.

I'm also grateful to you, the people of St. Anne. We've been through a lot together for the past twelve years, and I'm thankful to have such a warm and loving community around me as I face the road ahead.

As I've often said in my teaching and reflections, the message of the Cross is not that God will save us from trials and suffering. The message of the Cross is that God's love is infinitely more powerful than any trial or suffering we will ever face. Let's pray that through this we may all come to a deeper awareness of God's presence, God's love, and God's mercy in our lives and our community. And, in the end, may we all come to a deeper faith in the power of Jesus' Cross and Resurrection.

Your brother in Christ,  
Ron Ryan