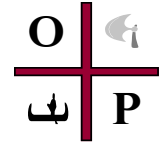


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September 21, 2021

Hello Everyone 😊

Many blessings of peace, love, and joy to each of us and our families and friends and neighbors!

I'm writing today to continue our practice of sharing a reflection and update each month as we move toward late Summer and early Fall, and as we go forward into this school year.

Throughout the pandemic I've been blessed to become much more deeply informed on the topic of "safeguarding".* This includes updates on the theology of the human person as articulated by Saint Edith Stein, recent scholarship on prevention, the development of victim-centered responses, the nature of the harm caused when safe environments are violated, and how to accompany those whose lives have been impacted by trauma and/or abuse.

At our parish level, many of us are familiar with our Safe Environment policies. Training and updates are required for all who serve in the parish in any capacity. We've been providing training and instituting best practices for many years. Indeed, we advocate that all people be formed in Safe Environment regardless of whether or not they serve in the parish. It's beneficial training for the overall wellbeing of people in all sectors of society – home, school, work, church, and any other setting.

As we look into the months ahead and begin to anticipate the shape of our ministries, I invite us to promote these safeguarding updates as one of the principal values through which we guide the design or redesign the life of our community: providing and maintaining a safe environment for body, mind, and spirit for people of all ages and backgrounds.

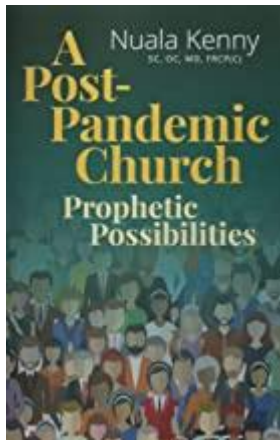
Beginning to apply this general guideline is the work we undertake this month. We can expect that there will be some adjustments to our ministries as well as to the physical security of our grounds and parish buildings.

Please see the reverse side of this sheet for a few other updates and notes.

Blessings 😊

Fr. David

The following is a reprint from the June pastoral letter . . .



Nuala Kenny, in her recent book, notes that, from the biological sciences, living organisms cannot return to an earlier state of existence once they have changed, or been overcome by change.†

This law of nature challenges the notion of returning to what we used to experience as our normal parish routines. The implications of this are significant. It seems that we will be 'returning', when actually we will be growing into a new community in a familiar space, with values and features of life that remain to be discerned and identified.

* Through online classes and seminars from *The Center for Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Persons*, St. Paul University, Ottawa, Canada.

† Kenny, N. *A Post Pandemic Church: Prophetic Possibilities*, Ontario (2121) 15.

Daily Mass Schedule (beginning October 6th)

Wednesdays at 5:00pm (St. Peter Mission)

Thursdays at 5:00pm (St. Olaf, English, Spanish, or bilingual, depending on particular needs)

Fridays at 11:00am (St. Peter Mission)

Mass at our 3 local Care Residences remains suspended until further notice.

Confessions (beginning September 23rd)

Thursdays at 4:00pm (out in the Gazebo on the St. Olaf campus)