Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

“The feast of the Assumption of Our Lady prompts us to acknowledge the basis for this joyful hope. Yes, we are still pilgrims, but our Mother has gone on ahead, where she points to the reward of our efforts. She tells us that we can make it. And, if we are faithful, we will reach home. The Blessed Virgin is not only our model; she is the Help of Christians. And as we besiege her with our petitions—‘Show that you are our Mother’—she cannot help but watch over her children with motherly care.” — St. Josemaría Escrivá

The month of August brings us the great Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary—a day of particular significance for our parish as we honor Our Lady of the Assumption, our patroness. The Church often reminds us that Mary is the surest and quickest way to Jesus. How true that is.

Consider her final recorded words in Sacred Scripture: “Do whatever he tells you” (Jn 2:5). Spoken at the wedding feast at Cana, these simple yet profound words continue to direct every disciple toward her Son. They are, in many ways, the summary of Mary's entire mission: to lead us to Jesus.

I love this quote from St. Josemaría Escrivá because it beautifully reminds us that we are called to follow Our Blessed Mother into the glory of heaven by faithfully doing whatever Jesus asks of us. Life on this earth is a tremendous gift, but it is not our final destination. We were created for something far greater: eternal life with the Lord. As we celebrate our Patronal Feast, may we give heartfelt thanks to Our Blessed Mother for the countless ways she has guided, protected, and interceded for our parish and for each of us personally.

Last month I included prayer intentions and asked you to join me in praying for them. I hope to continue this each month because, as the familiar saying reminds us, "The family that prays together stays together." And we truly are a parish family.

This month, I ask you to pray in a special way for the following intentions:

Director of Discipleship – As I write this letter, we continue interviewing candidates who are discerning a call to this important ministry. Please pray that our search committee remains attentive and docile to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and that the person whom God is calling will have the courage and generosity to answer that call.

Our School – Soon our teachers will return, followed shortly by our students. Please pray for our faculty and staff as they prepare for a new school year, that it may be filled with joy, wisdom, and many blessings. Pray also for our students, that any anxieties they may be carrying will give way to confidence, peace, and the joy of learning.

Pastoral Strategic Planning – We are now carefully reviewing the results of our Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey and developing our parish's pastoral plan. Please pray that this work remains firmly rooted in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and that all who are involved will be open to His promptings as we discern the path forward for our parish.

I look forward to celebrating our Patronal Feast with you as we entrust ourselves anew to the loving care of Our Lady of the Assumption. With the assurance of my prayers, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz
Pastor