

## **A MESSAGE FROM FR. MICHAEL**

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,*

A couple weeks ago, I addressed the parishioners at the weekend masses. Thanks to this Covid-world that we currently live in, many of you were not able to be there and, therefore, did not hear what I had to say.

Let me begin by saying that I am doing much better than I was when I left in February. Physically I still have all the challenges that I've been dealing with since my stroke, but after 5 months at the treatment facility in Pennsylvania, psychologically, I'm in a much better place. Recovery, like so many other things, is an ongoing battle and I am continuing to work on that as you read these words.

One of things that I had to come to grips with, was my accepting the reality that my life had changed and I could not go back to how things were, no matter how much I wanted to. There are limits to what I am capable of doing. And I came to realize that I could not do the work that would be expected of a parish priest. As a result, I met with Archbishop Rozanski before he left for St. Louis and I resigned as pastor of Sacred Heart parish.

I am now living in Springfield, and, on the Archbishop's suggestion, concentrating solely on my ongoing therapy (both physical and psychological). I do not yet know what the next chapter of my ministry will look like, but our loving God is good and always faithful and I trust that whatever the future holds, the providential hand of God will be what guides me there.

Finally, I want to express my profound gratitude for the overwhelming love and support that I have received from so many of you and the prayers offered for me. If you would be so kind, I ask that you continue to pray for me as I assure you of my prayers for you. May God bless you all.

Love,

*Fr. Michael*