August 19, 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Providence! God works things out for His people, even when we don't realize it. God's Providence has been at work in our refurbishment project. We have seen it over and over again. We have trusted it. And now we need to trust it in these final steps. From today's first reading, it seems that God picked the date for us.

My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. (Isaiah 56:7)

We knew we had an aggressive construction schedule. Our construction crew worked hard all summer to get us to this remarkable point. We are incredibly grateful for their hard work. They have been amazing!

No matter how well planned, there can be unexpected delays in any construction project. We experience that in our homes. It can also happen in God's House. The majority of the work is complete. However, there were delays in completing some of the original sacred art and furnishings, necessary custom fixtures, general industry supply delays, and, of course, Mother Nature. So what this mean for us? Well ...

Yes, were still having ...

- Open House on Sunday, August 20, 2017 from 12:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Dinner on Derry Food Truck Fest 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Enjoy the activities and fellowship with dinner tents around our parish campus and Bingo in Leo Hall.

Nevertheless ...

- Our beloved Shrine Church is not quite ready for us to have Mass in it.
- Our construction team needs just a few more days before they are completely satisfied.
- They, too, have fallen in love with our church and want it to be perfect for us.

So here's the plan ...

- Today, after the 11:30 a.m., we will process to the Narthex for the blessing of the church doors.
- Guided tours of the Shrine Church 12:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. You will be amazed!
- The first Mass in the newly refurbished Shrine Church will be Saturday, August 26, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.
- Murray Hall remains our Summer Church until Wednesday, August 23, 2017 through the 9:00 a.m. Mass.
- After the Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Mass, we need to begin converting Murray Hall back to a gym for school.
- We are unable to have Daily Mass, Rosary, or Adoration from Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. until confessions on Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

Thank you of your patience and understanding. I look forward to seeing you this Sunday afternoon, showing you the church, and celebrating with you. We are in this together, as we continue to honor, witness, and celebrate the vision entrusted to us.

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, pray for us. Saint Catherine Labouré, pray for us.

Yours in Christ,

Very Reverend Neil S. Sullivan, VF Pastor