

Dear Friends:

I am writing this letter from the bus on our way to the March for Life in Washington, DC. It is an honor to travel with 3 of our young people to stand up for life and encourage our leaders to do the same. I want to thank everyone who supported our students and supported life through your purchase of buttons and magnets this past weekend.

I want to once again in the name of my father and my entire family thank you for your continued prayers for my father. He got his CT scan results last week and the scans were clean and the blood tests were good. On Monday he will have a second Endoscopic Ultrasound to determine if the radiation has decimated the tumor or not. He is feeling well, his appetite has returned and he is even gaining some weight back. All positive signs, but we have one more hurdle to get through on Monday. I know it is through your prayers and the prayers of many others that have brought him this far in his recovery. I am overwhelmed by the number of people who continue to ask about my father's health even in the midst of your own suffering and difficulties – it means the world to me to know that I am part of such a loving and caring community. All of you are in mine and my parents and family's prayers each day as well.

This week you received a letter concerning the Gift and our annual stewardship appeal. If you have not yet responded, please do so. It is important for us to know that we can count on you to share your gifts of Time in prayer and devotion to the Lord; Talent in service to our parish and community; and Treasure to the extent that you are able to sacrifice to continue the good work of ministry and charity through St. Isidore Parish.

This week we are grateful to begin our celebration of Catholic Formation Week. It is a time for us to celebrate the good work we do in educating our children, youth and adults through our Parish School, Children and Adult Faith Formation Program and Youth Ministry. **Many of our families in the School and Faith Formation Program are struggling and sacrificing to pay their tuition in the face of our economic crisis. If you are able to help some of these families with a gift to the school or faith formation tuition fund it would be greatly appreciated.**

**Comment [GJS1]:** Tom what do you think about including this in the bulletin this week? If you don't want to – just let Ruth know to delete the part in red.

I want to personally extend an invitation to all of our parishioners to attend our Parish Dinner Dance and Auction on February 28<sup>th</sup>. It is a great time of fun, fellowship and food with your fellow parishioners. While the school families have worked very hard to plan and prepare a wonderful evening, it is an event that is meant for all of our parishioners to enjoy. There are exciting items in the live and silent auction and the winner of the VW Convertible or \$25,000.00 will be announced that night as well. So if you have never attended the event before or if it has been some years since you have been there – make this the year that begin or renew the annual tradition of attending our Parish Dinner Dance and Auction. More details are in the bulletin or you can call the school or parish office to make your reservations. Tickets for the raffle and the dinner are also being sold after all the Masses over the next several weekends.

Well, this week's letter has been kind of a rambling of some of the exciting things happening around the parish. Please be sure to be a part of them and all the good things that happen each week around St. Isidore.

Peace,