

August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Fr. Joe and the parishioners of St. John the Evangelist parish,

In a year filled with much sorrow I share this message of thanks and joy in hope of uplifting spirits among your community. Only now has our family's life settled down enough to extend our thanks properly.

On the night of October 15th, 2019 our son John, then 13, suffered a brain hemorrhage while doing his homework. Chances he would see the light of dawn were slim. On life support for over a month and 3 months in acute care rehabilitation, we finally brought our son home in March where he continues on his road to recovery.

Starting that evening, after news of John's dire condition, our family embarked on a journey that would test our faith, our marriage and our family as a whole. The outpouring of support was overwhelming and, along with our faith, sustained us through the darkest moments.

Upon hearing the news and arriving that same day, we can't thank you enough for your prayers, kindness and support Fr. Joe. John and you have a special relationship, the way his eyes would light upon hearing your name or that you would be visiting (he couldn't speak yet) clearly displayed how much you mean to him. The outpouring of support from St. John the Evangelist parish has humbled us so much, thank you all. The parish is so very lucky to have you!

As of today, John has re-learned how to swallow, eat, speak, regain use of his limbs one at a time and learned to walk again. To hear our son's first words and to witness him take his first steps for the second time in our lives, is a feeling like no other. Simply amazing. For a child who could only blink his eyes 6 months ago to enjoying the 4th of July with friends and family, to completing two 5Ks to raise funds for charity, it is truly a miracle in progress. He is still the same kind, caring and funny boy he has always been and we are sure that all of you would enjoy meeting him. Hopefully in the future this can take place.

John continues to work hard on all his therapies, and has recently started tutoring in math and reading. He is preparing to go back to school part time this fall, focusing on one 9th grade subject for the first semester. One step at a time, on the road to fulfilling his goal of graduating with his class in 2024.

The Lord held John in his arms, and the Lord, hearing your prayers, returned him to us all. So please rejoice in however you contributed, because your community has helped perform a miracle!

Please accept our family's deepest gratitude.

Warm Regards,



The Brennan Family - Bill, Caroline, Cate & John