Dear Friends,

 The deadlines for the bulletin may make it seem like I had nothing to say last Sunday about the Festival, however it has allowed me the time to genuinely reflect on what an amazing experience the Festival is. The one word that comes to mind is gratitude. Each night, whether influenced by rain or sunshine, I felt an overwhelming sense of thanksgiving for being pastor here at St. Stan’s. Everywhere I looked I saw honest joy, in the faces of volunteers, parishioners, and members of our community.

Thank you to the Festival Committee, and especially the leadership of John Early and Jane Friel. Our festival committee embodies the selfless commitment to service of others that is the hallmark of the Gospel we are called to preach. Theirs is truly a labor of love, and without their commitment, I do not see how any of the wonderful nights last week could have happened. Please consider joining this committee in the future if you have a passion for the success of the festival.

 Thank you also to the countless volunteers. We have hundreds of volunteers, with set up, counting, collecting and booth staffing. Special acknowledgment to those who volunteered every night! Thank you to Chef Chipper of AAA catering, who not only ran the food booth, but once again had his family, friends, and employees with him serving the community as well. Same goes to the Kelly family and friends who ran our funnel cake factory. Thank you to Pat Stortenbecker and the ladies who ran the garage sale throughout the summer. We are also grateful to our Mater Dei community for support with numerous volunteers in students, families and faculty. I am also grateful to Lansdale Catholic’s support and presence with the robotics club. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus and Ancient Order of Hibernians for your witness in service. Thank you to the Scouts, Altar Servers, and all the parish groups who took nights in the booths. And thank you especially to the Parish Staff, for your organization and support throughout the festival, both day and night.

 Each year, I am learning the faces of our community friends who may not worship with us but make the festival a must stop each night for their families. I even heard from a few parishioners who made new friends in our community and invited people to join us at Mass. The St. Stan’s Festival brings people together, and the people of our parish are bringing people to encounter Christ. Thank God for the wonderful experience of last week, His blessing of weather and safety, and the promise of Love He affords us in His Son. I apologize if I have missed anyone to thank - know that I deeply value your commitment to our Parish. When we come together as a community in faith, God can accomplish great things.

May God Bless You,