

*June 16, 2021*

*Dear Parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish,*

*Grace and peace be with you. I want to update you on the status of your parish. Last year, as a result of a careful and thoughtful study of the parishes of the Blue Ridge area, it was decided that Our Lady of Lourdes Parish would be given a period of time to demonstrate whether it could recover its viability. Several benchmarks were set to measure viability, for example, membership, number of sacraments celebrated, parish income and expenses. I want to be clear that I have **not** made a decision regarding the future of Our Lady of Lourdes. My desire is to continue to follow this plan, to monitor trends in the parish, and to do a serious assessment as we move from the summer into the fall. Please know of my gratitude for the family of faith at Our Lady of Lourdes, my love for you and my prayers during this critical time.*

*Sincerely yours in Christ,*

*Bishop James V. Johnston, Jr.*