



Dear Vianney Family,

I hope this summer has been an opportunity for you to relax and recharge. My summer has been one of challenges and blessings. I was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia on June 23 and, since that date, have been an inpatient at Siteman Cancer Center. I have now completed my second round of chemotherapy. The goal is to totally eradicate the cancer and ultimately, receive a bone marrow transplant. There are many steps in between, so I try to focus on one day at a time.

Vianney is a great place. Our leadership team is the most dedicated and talented group of people that I have had the privilege of working with over my 40-year career. We are making improvements to the spiritual, academic and personal pillars that represent Vianney's mission, helping our students prepare for college and beyond. Our campus continues to be updated and renovated to ensure that our Griffins have the best possible experience during their 4-year high school journey. I am still very involved in school operations, engaging with Vianney's board of directors and working with school leaders on key decisions. Over the past few years, our society has adapted to working remotely, and I am taking full advantage of these tools.

My diagnosis was the result of routine blood work for an annual physical. One of the many blessings that I have encountered is that I was in otherwise good health with slight fatigue as my only symptom. In fact, when I received the news that morning, I was in my office at school with plans to play an afternoon round of golf with friends. The news was shocking, terrifying and difficult to comprehend. My mind immediately went to the two loves of my life, my family and Vianney, and the impact of this challenging news on both.

I count my blessings:

- On May 27, my wife, Bridget, and I welcomed our first grandchild, Phoebe. My oldest daughter, Molly, and her husband, Cody, are already taking to parenthood like veterans.
- Vianney colleagues coordinated a beautiful prayer service in our Curé d'Ars Chapel, shortly after my admission to Siteman. I was able to watch the recording.
- A few weeks later, our family's former parish of 28 years (Assumption-Mattese) held a prayer service that was livestreamed for me. The pews were full of family, friends, colleagues through the years and my Vianney classmates.
- Marianist communities across the country are praying for my recovery, and each Sunday, a Marianist priest brings me Holy Communion.
- Since I was a young man, I have actively practiced my Catholic faith, but my personal prayers have now been elevated to new levels. Courage, hope and an absolute trust in God's will are my new prayer goals.
- This is an opportunity for reflection, and I have a growing appreciation of everything and everyone in my life. Simply said, I see God in all things.
- I have an amazing medical team at Siteman Cancer Center. We are so blessed to have one of the leading cancer research and treatment facilities in St. Louis. I am literally minutes away from Bridget, our three grown children, Rick Jr., Molly and Anne, and my mom, Mary Lee.
- The prayers, cards, Masses and support that I have received from so many people has been overwhelming...in a very good way!

Since my diagnosis, people have routinely asked, "What can we do for you?" Here is my only ask of the Vianney family: Pray for my recovery and continued health if it be God's will. If you can attend Mass and light a candle for that intention, it would be greatly appreciated. I believe that God has a plan for all of us, but I also believe that He listens to prayers...a real, tangible sign of our faith.

Go Griffins!

God Bless,
Rick Davis '79
President