

Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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We are only 2 short weeks away from the end of the liturgical year. It is at this time of the year that our scriptures for Mass focus on the end times, and the Lord's return to earth in glory! Holy mother Church, in her care for her children, prepares us for this eventuality, calling us to invest everyday in the things of God, so that when the Lord does return – or we leave this world to meet Him – it will be an encounter full of joy and gratitude.

Our common human experience has taught us that even when someone dies after a long and fruitful life, death comes like a thief in the night (1 Thes. 5:2). We must always be prepared to meet the Lord, living everyday with His love for us and His command to love in return foremost in our thoughts and actions.

With this reality in mind, we continue to pray for Peter Cao, C.Ss.R., an associate pastor here at Visitation who works primarily with the Vietnamese. Fr. Peter returned to the sacristy after morning mass last week complaining of a headache and blurred vision. Fr. Peter never complains. Clearly something was wrong.

After a trip to the emergency room at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital it was determined that Fr. Peter had suffered a stroke. What's more, tests revealed he had a mass of malformed blood vessels in his brain that caused the stroke and that would require surgery. Fr. Peter is young – 51 years old – and strong, both physically and spiritually. He will have surgery this week and at least 3 months of rehabilitation. We are hopeful he can return to Visitation in February, 2021.

Fr. Peter has demonstrated great courage and fortitude, coming to this country from Vietnam, not knowing the language or customs. Fr. Peter demonstrates the prayerfulness and spirit of service of a true Redemptorist missionary. As we pray for his recovery and return to Visitation, let us, like Fr. Peter, not take anything for granted, living each day in love, prayer and service to God and God's people.

Sincerely,

Francis Mulvaney, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Francis D. Mulvaney, C.Ss.R.

Pastor