

Dear Friends,

Last week, it was shared with you that I was taking a leave from ministry work for a period of time due to health reasons. I wanted to clarify a little bit for you as to the nature of my leave, but before I do, I want to first thank those of you who have already promised your support and prayers during this time. I am truly blessed to know that I have your support during this time in my life.

As many of you know, I have struggled over the years with my weight. Gaining and losing, I've played the diet and exercise game and have struggled recently to live a balanced life. A recent admission to the hospital and a weigh-in that revealed to me that I was at the heaviest I've ever been at in my life, I was reminded that this is not a game, and, that the game I'm playing is actually a struggle for my life.

I had to do something, and so the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and Holy Family, Presentation, and Our Risen Savior have been kind enough to give me the time off that I need to work on my health issues. Taking a leave at this time is difficult and admitting my faults publicly is not easy. Taking a leave now will help me to develop a plan of action that will give me the opportunity to return to ministry in the future a healthier priest.

Many of you have asked me how you can help. Well, first of all you can help by continuing to pray for me and for Holy Family, Presentation and Our Risen Savior. Pray for all of your priests, deacons, Gail Kraig, your Temporary Parish Director, and all of the staff who are working extra hard during my time away. Secondly, you can feel free to continue to invite me to your house to spend time with your family and even have me over for a healthy dinner. I would love to come and dine with you and your family. What I am not looking for is more advice on how to lose weight. Trust me, I have seen it and tried it all. I am currently working with a great group of trusted professionals that are helping to monitor my weight loss goals and each of them are doing a fine job helping me along this path.

I hope that I get the chance to see you around town. May God continue to bless you and your family.

In Christ,

Fr. Ryan Pruess