My Dear Family of Saint Elizabeth,

I cannot even begin to tell you what each of you have meant to me and my family over the last several months.  The love and the outpouring that was shown to us was so beautiful I cannot even find the words to express it.  The support you all showed us during DJ's illness was something that sustained us both through the good days and the really tough days.  The visits, the prayers, the texts and the love helped us get through his months of chemo, scans and ultimately brain radiation.  He remained hopeful and positive through it all and I strongly believe it was because of all of your love and prayers.  All of this was really taking its toll on both of us well as we were trying to get through quarantine, creating  a strong feeling i solation and loneliness, but the phone calls, Facebook, cards and texts eased that more than you will ever know.  Looking back on those days now I am so very thankful that our isolation gave us so much extra time together with no agenda.

In the last weeks leading up to his passing, it was suggested a candlelight vigil be held in our front yard.  Little did any of you know DJ had rapidly declined in the days leading up to that night.  It honestly took everything he had to come out to the porch to see the beautiful love that flowed from our front yard straight into our families’ hearts. It is something the kids/grandkids and I will never ever forget.  DJ came back in that night, laid in our bed holding my hand.  I believe in my heart, as he lay there he carried the beauty of the night in his heart, but also knowing that our family and myself would be taken care of after he was gone.  Little did any of us know it would be his last 12 hours of life with us.

I write all of this not to make you sad, but it's ok if you are, because we are.  The world’s greatest husband, father, Papa and friend.  He has left us to be with those who have gone on before him and to meet our Lord face to face.  For those of us left, the next few days were a blur.  What I do know is, we were NEVER hungry, the house for weeks smelled of beautiful flower arrangements, and the boys’ favorite thing was going to the mail box to collect the many cards and letters that brought so much joy to our hearts. My words see so small, but THANK YOU!!!!!

I would like to share a quick story with you that Katy and I both experienced on the morning DJ passed.  His nurse had just given him his bath and all of his medicine.  He smelled so good and looked so fresh and content.  The nurse was chatting with Katy and I preparing us for what the next few days would be like.  At that moment I looked ups and saw him moving a little.  I jumped up and crawled into the bed next to him and held him.  Katy joined us on his other side.  Within a minute or two, DJ's cloudy lifeless eyes opened wide.  They were no longer cloudy or lifeless.....the color was totally vibrant and they were sparkling!  He took his last breath as I held him.  Katy lifted her head in tears and said "Momma!!!!  He sees Jesus!!!"  At that moment he passed peacefully in my arms.  What a beautiful testament to his life and legacy.

In closing, DJ always prayed for a miracle.  Not the kind that would make him healthy although that would be amazing, but the kind that just let his life and death bring others peace and closeness to the Lord.  I would say well done good and faithful servant.  He was our living miracle, and ya'll are our loving miracles.  For that, we will be ok!

I love you my friends and cannot wait to love on each one of you,

Lisa ️