August 28, 2026

My friends,

I asked Debbie to add Joan and me to the concerns lifted daily by our St. Peter's Prayer Ministry, and I asked Chris to add us to our parish prayer list. I write to share a bit of what is taking place in our lives these days and to set forth clearly the things I hope you will pray for us.

Joan and I are 5+ years into our journey with Parkinson's Disease. We have reached the moment when we need to consider treatments other than medication. After discussions with my Atlanticare and UPenn physicians, I am proceeding toward a treatment called Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) on October 27th.

UPenn stages DBS in 3 phases. In the first phase, my UPenn neurosurgeon will implant two electrodes into specific areas of my brain during a 3-5 hour surgery. On November 10th, in a much shorter outpatient surgery, a rechargeable pulse generator (similar to the generators used with pacemakers for the heart) will be implanted in my chest. The last phase of DBS is activating and programming the generator. We expect this will begin mid-December and could take anywhere from a few months to more than a year.

Although DBS will not cure PD and has not been shown to prevent the progression of the disease, we expect that it will help me to manage the rigidity, the slowness of movement, and the muscle dystonia that are part of each day. Over the course of the next year, it may also allow me to reduce the amount of medication needed to manage these PD symptoms, and to reduce the many side effects of these medications.

Despite having a currently incurable, progressive, neuro-degenerative disease, Joan and I feel truly fortunate for many things. Here are a few:

- I live in a time when/where treatment options beyond medications are available. So many others with PD do not.
- My medical team has assessed me and – at least so far – has determined that I am someone who may benefit from DBS.
- I have good medical insurance. Too many do not.
- Between family and community and friends, Joan and I have a network of support to whom we can turn when we need help or support. Not everyone is so fortunate.

So, in light of these things, for what would I like you to pray?

- Pray that Joan and I will experience every day both the magnificence of the God-who-is-Love and the (sometimes overwhelming) breadth of the needs of God's creation.
- Pray that – no matter what challenges we personally face – we may have the wisdom that holds unflinchingly to the truth that God is right here, walking at our side and at the side of this community and of all the created world at every moment.
- Pray that we have the courage to lean ever more deeply into the truth that our lives are not our own, that we ourselves and every person we meet is part of God's larger unimaginably creative story.
- Pray that we will continue to step onto the stage of everyday life, each intentionally prepared and willing to write our chapter in the book of the story of God and God's people.
- Pray that this next chapter of our lives will further God's work.

We remain grateful for each of you and for your prayers. Let us approach day with gratitude, humility, wisdom, and courage. We will pray the same for each of you.

Grace and Peace to each –

Genevieve

A note of thanks to our friend Rabbi Joel:

My reflections have been greatly enriched by the writings of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks in Deuteronomy: Renewal of the Sinai Covenant. A few sentences from that text are included here:

> *"The world did not begin with us, nor will it end with our departure. We belong to a larger narrative, the story of a people who long ago, in the days of Abraham and Sarah, set out on a journey to a land of promise and a distantly glimpsed, not yet reached vision of redemption."*
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> *The very knowledge that we will not live forever, that we are here for all too short a time, that the world will continue after us, charges us with our most compelling energies. We have dreams but we know they will not all be fulfilled. Therefore we must choose and act. We become creators of the single most consequential work of art we will never execute – our life itself."*