THE PARISHES OF

HOLY ROSARY SACRED HEART

The Annunciation of the LORD – 25 March 2020

My dear People of Sacred Heart and Holy Rosary Parishes,

People have asked me if I were to write a book about my priesthood, what would I entitle it? My answer always is: ***Who Would Have Ever Thought…*** Innumerable people and events have shaped my life as a priest in ways I never would have thought possible. In truth, my priesthood has unfolded in ways never thought of on my ordination day in 1975. Never in my wildest imaginings would I ever have dreamt that the world and nation in which we live would be gripped in such fear and trembling, held as virtual prisoners in our own homes by a virus!

And so it is in this milieu, this time of uncertainty and ennui that I come to you as your pastor before celebrating Holy Week and the Resurrection of our LORD, to pledge the prayers of your parish clergy, especially for you and your loved ones near and far – for health, safety and peace of mind and soul, as well as for our communities, our nation and all those beset by COVID 19, fear of it, or any other affliction or loses. Also, be assured that we continue to keep our parishes "operating" to take care of, if we are able, any spiritual or material emergencies that may arise.

Office Hours: *Mon–Thu: 9:00 AM–4:00 PM; Fri: 9:00 AM–2:00 PM.*

Regarding spiritual activities/events available for you, the Body of Christ:

- Until Bishop Schlert opens the churches again for the public celebration of Mass, ***ONLY*** **Sacred Heart Church** will be open for: (*Please be aware that there will be* ***NO ACCESS*** *to the restrooms.*)
  - **Personal prayer:**
    - Monday – Thursday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM;
    - Fridays: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
  - **Confessions:**
    - Tuesdays: 6:30-7:30 PM.
    - Saturdays: 4:00 -4:45 PM
  - **Exposition & Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament,** with no celebration of Benediction:
    - Tuesdays & Thursdays: 6:00 – 8:00 PM.
    - Sundays: 8:00 AM to NOON.
- In so far as priests are permitted to celebrate Mass only privately, all scheduled Masses are being duly celebrated on the day requested, or on the day before or after the requested date.
- Since there are no Sunday Masses, the number of printed bulletins is reduced; also, Holy Rosary bulletins are available in the narthex of Sacred Heart next to the main doors, at the rectory and ***online***.
- ***Please***, when in the church, if other people are present, ***MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE***, i.e. 6 feet.
- Anointing of the Sick will be administered only in danger of death. There are no Communion Calls.
- For the latest updates on information from the Diocese, regularly check the parishes' websites or go to the Diocesan website: www.AD-Today.com.

These are most difficult times for all of us. Indeed, they are equally grim and hard for our parishes as we struggle and suffer under tremendous financial uncertainty. Our only hope of income is your consistent, ongoing generosity. Even though we are not functioning as usual, we, like you, must meet our financial obligations: utility bills, payrolls and assistance to those in need, which now are growing. There is no vacation from bills. Those in need deserve more than our well wishes and a prayer. Unlike others, I can't tell our financial obligations to ***"…stay at home!"***

Most humbly and earnestly, I implore you: Please continue your regular financial support of your parish. Drop off your envelopes at the office, or through the mail slot at the door, or send them via the mail. As best as you are able, please make up any missed weeks. And perhaps, if you do not use Online Giving, please consider doing so now.

- the Sacred Heart OnlineGiving link: https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/150
- the Holy Rosary OnlineGiving link: https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/4815

Last but not least, make the words of St Paul your own: ***We urge you, … cheer the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient with all … do not … return evil for evil, … but seek what is good for each other and … Rejoice always. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.*** And I remain

Yours in Jesus, our Suffering Servant,