



Pastor's Message

April 16, 2020

On Wednesday, April 15th, I did something which I never did in over twenty-seven years of being a priest. In a single day, I had to pray at two different cemeteries and one funeral home, for three people who recently died. One gravesite prayer service was at 11:00am. The second was 1:00pm. The third was an abbreviated prayer service at a local funeral home, at 5:00pm.

However, I do not pen this Message to focus on my priestly ministry to the faithful departed and their grieving families. I do so as a humble request. I humbly request you offer a prayer for the men and women who are employed at our local funeral homes and cemeteries.

Perhaps, you may have said to yourself, "They are paid for their good work. And, I presume from a business perspective, if there are many people dying, then it is probably accurate to state, business must be good for them." Well, maybe that is true; maybe it is not.

Nevertheless, whether it is true or false from a business perspective all is good for them, I can personally attest to the fact after speaking with those employed in the aforementioned settings, the immense number of deaths because of the pandemic, in addition to other causes, have taken an anguished toll on some.

How so? They must address, more rapidly than ever before in their work, the heartfelt sorrow of many families mourning the loss of a loved one. Since they are employed in the said occupations, (unquestionably, many by their own choice), an enormous amount of hours per week is apart from those they love at home. And, they encounter risks daily, more times than we can imagine, by interacting with strangers they never met, not being able to always follow the mandated rules of social distancing to discuss and execute funeral plans.

Indeed, others in society more frequently face greater danger and risk during the present pandemic, than those named above. But, all I ask of you is to remember those men and women I have mentioned. They are doing an indispensable and difficult service for many grieving families of our area today.

Pray that God blesses them with energy, patience and good health.

Peace,
Fr. Marc