

Looking out my window at the rectory, I missed seeing all of you. St Bonaventure on a normal day is busy, busy with people, cars pulling in and out, groups of parishioners joining for mass, the celebration of sacraments, chatting with friends, meetings, religious education classes with hundreds of children, adult formation classes, food pantry deliveries and clients, staff members attending to their responsibilities and visitors, mail and delivery truck drop-offs, people connecting in countless ways that say COMMUNITY.

And then the parish became quiet, still, everyone at home. A new lifestyle and rhythm of activity came into play. We were asked to do less, to distance more, to wash our hands more and not touch our faces, to practice solitude, to pray individually, to pray online with multi-media, to be at home with ourselves, to see these exercises as a way to slow down a virus and thus show love to others beyond our smaller world.

We hear of the spread of the virus, the mounting number of patients and deaths, the exhaustion of nurses, doctors, health care providers, first responders, grocery store employees, delivery drivers and numerous servants who keep attending to our needs. We want to pray for them and show them respect. May God reward them.

So what are we learning in a short time?

- To humble ourselves before God?
- To pray more sincerely and quietly?
- To be grateful for all who serve us?

We don't have the answers to everything. We can't predict what the future holds. As believers, we trust that God only wants the best for us. No virus can steal us away from the love of God. As members of St Bonaventure, we pray for each person affected by isolation, especially the elderly and our children. We try to reach out with deeds of kindness to those who need special care. This virus is no longer about each one of us individually but about the COMMUNITY that God loves.

P.S.: Your cards, letters and emails during my recovery have enlivened and strengthened me more than these words can say: THANK YOU! It is now eight weeks since surgery and I am feeling better every day, beginning to drive again and taking short walks around the parking lot. Have you noticed the beauty surrounding us in this lovely season of spring? I recommend the St Bonaventure Garden.

