At a time when society is reeling from the Coronavirus pandemic, the Church and its media – print, web, social, radio and television – are helping its people face this unprecedented challenge. Pope Francis acknowledged the important role that is being played by diocesan and national media in his April 1 homily “Today, I would like us to pray for all those who work in the media, who work to communicate so that people don’t find themselves so isolated, ... for information to help endure this time of isolation.”

Catholic News Service is covering all aspects of the crisis, and we will continue to do so for as long as needed. What follows are a selection of stories from this week meant to inform, inspire and reassure.

This complimentary CNS news package is being offered to all diocesan digital and print media – whether or not they are subscribers to CNS — for use on their websites, social media and print publications.

https://cnstopstories.com/2020/04/02/during-plague-catholic-church-called-on-saints-for-help-healing/ Saints the Church has prayed to during times of plague and disease. It is a long list!

https://cnstopstories.com/2020/04/03/prisons-passion-via-crucis-meditations-reflect-on-aftermath-of-crime/ Good Friday’s Way of the Cross written for Pope Francis by prisoners, victims and their families is a powerful reflection on suffering, grace and forgiveness.

https://cnstopstories.com/2020/04/02/seitz-let-us-ask-our-savior-to-help-us-to-walk-with-us-in-these-times/#more-26757 Bishop Mark Seitz reflects on what the coronavirus pandemic might teach us about ourselves and our utter dependence on the Lord.

https://cnstopstories.com/2020/04/01/pandemic-adds-increasing-burdens-on-immigrants-without-legal-status/#more-26714 The undocumented workers who clean hospitals, prepare our food and perform other important functions are without resources and fearful as the economy stalls.

https://cnstopstories.com/2020/04/01/service-agencies-find-workarounds-for-virus-mandated-restrictions/ Catholic service agencies are finding creative ways to help people during this time of unemployment and disease, remembering those most likely to be forgotten and overlooked.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WgCh3VeVDI&feature=youtu.be A beautiful CNS video presenting the widely acclaimed and spiritually powerful Urbi et Orbi blessing by Pope Francis on March 27.