

Reflections of the Rector



Dear brothers and sisters,

Aren't you excited? We are back to our normal Mass schedule, so we can go to Mass at the times we have been used to, and at the churches we love so much. Our offices are also back to normal schedule. We are not able to open the doors to the public yet, but it should be easier to get ahold of us. Things are going back to normal, and you have told me that you like it.

But I have a confession to make. I do not want to go back to normal. I look forward to all the restrictions and protocols we have to observe are over, but that's about it; I do not want to go back to the way things were before the pandemic.

I recently received a few reports that show the sad reality of what normal has been for us lately. In our Diocese we have seen a steep decline in sacramental life. In 1990, just 30 years ago, there were 1969 Infant Baptisms. Last year there were only 1097. In 1990 there were 2207 First Communions, while last year there were only 1307. As for Confirmations, there were 1751, compared to the 1253 of last year. Marriages, the beginning of our Domestic Churches, were also affected; there were only 340 last year, compared to the 900 marriages of 1990. Funerals were a little more stable, although there was also a decrease; we went from 1196 in 1990 to 1054 last year. Finally, the number of registered Catholics in our diocese went from 101770 in 1990 to 84539 last year.

Looking at our parish, the situation is not any better. We went from 157 Baptisms in the three churches that form our parish, to just 58 last year. The decline in our First Communions was not as steep; we went from 97 in 1990 to 87 last year. The number of people getting married in our churches also went down, from 36 in 1990 to 12 last year. Perhaps the number of funerals was the most shocking to me; we went from 103 in 1990 to 8 last year.

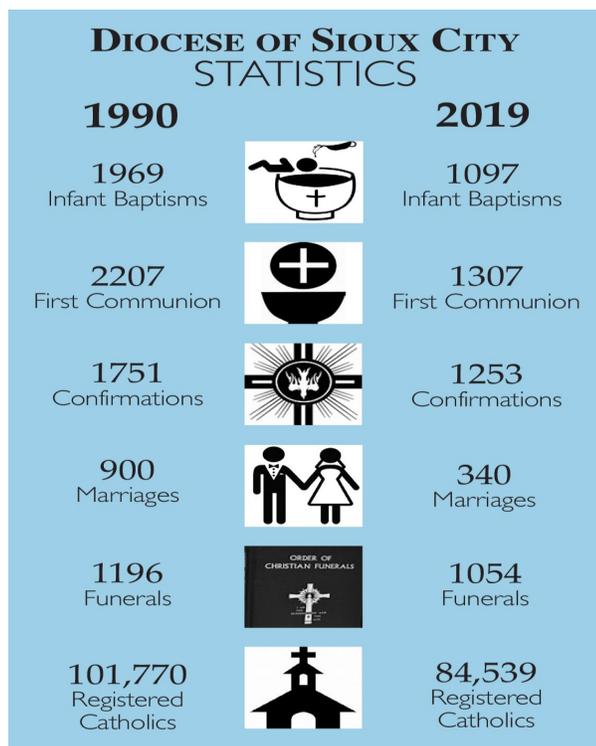
There are certainly different reasons why this is happening, but the end result is that our parishes are dying, and this is nothing new to us. So, I do not want to go back to that normality. I do not want to go back to a dying church! And I hope you don't want to do it either.

My brothers and sisters, you and I can bring some life back into our parish, into our Church. First we need to pray, and pray unceasingly. I'd suggest also offering some works of mortification for our Church, like fasting or abstaining from eating something we really like. Second, we need to increase our Eucharistic Devotion; only the Catholic Church has what really matters, Christ in the Eucharist, who waits for us in the tabernacle. And finally, we need to go out and preach that Eucharistic faith; we need to show people with our actions why they need Christ in their lives.

We can do it!

In Christ,

Fr. David Esquiliano



ARE YOU JOINING US FOR MASS?

LET US KNOW!



sccathedral.org



info@sccathedral.org



712-255-1637
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The Financial Corner

<u>INCOME</u>		Jun-20
Weekly Offerings	\$	31,365.50
Loose Offerings	\$	56.00
Programming Support	\$	7,208.33
Other Income	\$	8,160.03
Total Parish Income	\$	46,789.86
<u>EXPENSE</u>		
Salaries and Wages	\$	37,635.89
Administrative Expenses	\$	8,078.19
Ministry Expenses	\$	2,228.21
Utility Bills & Repairs	\$	22,256.97
Assessments	\$	87,705.00
Other Expenses	\$	100,314.12
Total Expenses	\$	258,218.38
Net Income	\$	(211,428.52)
BHCS Assessment Unpaid	\$	100,000.00

Cathedral Parish Joins Flocknote



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Faith and Sacramental Formation



Virtual Boundaries: Appropriate Online Safety Measures

By The VIRTUS® Programs

Never has the concept of "virtual boundaries" been more important than today, as more people are signing on to various virtual platforms to connect with others. As a result, we find ourselves increasingly needing to delineate boundaries more clearly, so that our online behavior is just as appropriate as it should be in-person, and so that children are safe. Regardless of your role or position in the life of a child, the focus of this article is to provide a context of appropriate boundaries and best practices to help keep online interaction and discussion with youth appropriate and with proper oversight.

Best practices for parents and guardians:

Model appropriate behavior. Everything that you do with technology can be observed by others—this includes how much time you spend on the computer, the balance between Internet time and home life, what you do online and on your technological devices such as a phone or tablet, how you respond to inappropriate situations you encounter, how you communicate about yourself, the language you use, the images you post, etc. In the case of parents with youth at home, all of it is being observed by developing, impressionable brains.

Be available. First, try as much as possible to be directly engaged in the technology utilized by the child, seeing what they see online, hearing what they hear—asking them questions and processing it together. However, sometimes we temporarily utilize technology with youth while something else is being accomplished—preparing a snack within eyesight, answering a quick work email next to them, etc. Depending on the child's age, if you cannot be immediately and directly engaged in the online interaction or material with the youth, then ensure that you are nearby and ready to communicate if/when necessary.

Expect to be included in all communication between the youth-serving adult(s) in your life, and your youth—then follow up to ensure it happens. Your written permission should be obtained for any youth-serving person/organization to communicate electronically with a minor. Monitor closely any video calls made.

Control access. Communicate to the youth about what sites and apps are acceptable to use; control what apps are actually accessed or purchased, utilize password access and share them with each other, install safety protection software, etc.

Limit minor's use of technology. Schedule technology "down time," since minors (depending on age) could be online all day in classes, or... gaming. Consider limiting digital devices to particular times during the day so it doesn't dominate everyone's day and attention. And, get everyone outside for exercise and fresh perspective!

Monitor youth behavior on the devices or apps themselves. There's no tool you can use that will work as well as personally communicating and reviewing the technology, but it is also helpful to install safety protection software and utilize all of the apps' "parental controls." This could also mean reviewing the apps on the device, creating parallel accounts so that you can interact with, and observe your youth on the site, etc. Additionally, enable and regularly monitor privacy settings of apps and devices your child uses. Develop and discuss family internet rules/expectations and how to hold each other accountable. Keep things consistent.

Assist minors with understanding what it means to maintain privacy in the digital world—and the importance of it. This has to do with what youth share about themselves online, intentionally and unintentionally. We take the time to teach them to take a second look before posting anything personal, including what information can be gleaned about them from their surroundings, location, clothing, communication, etc.

Maintain boundaries even with your friends and family who "aren't in the know," and educate them when possible. But, just remember that their behavior isn't dictated by any organization's "social media" or "technology use" policy and despite their good intentions, there could be some issue that crop up. Monitor these interactions as well, plan to monitor, interrupt, educate and then have conversations with youth afterward if something was amiss.

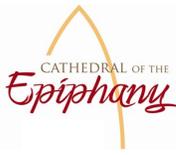
Instruct "next steps" if inappropriate behavior or material is observed via any of their apps or digital devices—this could include material that intimidates/bullies, manipulates, harasses or reveals private information. The first step is for the youth to tell a trusted adult—they need to know they can come to you or another adult if they feel uncomfortable or shaken (even if you're in a meeting, or doing something else that is important). The second step is to report. There may be reporting features within the app to report abuse; the CyberTipline is also an excellent **reporting** tool. If you see something inappropriate or illegal, it's essential to communicate it to the right person or place. This could mean communicating with the child protective services in your state, if you even suspect abuse; it could also mean reporting directly within the site or app, or reporting the information to report.cybertip.org

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In Christ Our Savior,

Santa Fernandez

Director of Faith and Sacramental Formation



Cathedral of the Epiphany

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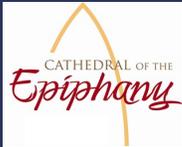
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August 2020

Very Rev. J. David Esquiliano, JCL Rector
Rev. Jeremy Wind, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Mauro Sanchez, Parochial Vicar
Very Rev. Bradley Pelzel, V.G., In-Residence

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EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

TUESDAY 5:30p-6:30pm St. Joseph
MONDAY-SUNDAY 24 Hour
Adoration Chapel-Epiphany Center

MASS SCHEDULE

MON.-FRI. 12:00 pm Cathedral *English*
5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*
SATURDAY: 4:00 pm St. Boniface *English*
6:00 pm Cathedral *Spanish*
SUNDAY: 8:30 am Cathedral *Latin*
8:30 am St. Joseph *English*
10:00 am Cathedral *English*
10:30 am St. Boniface *Spanish*
12:00 pm Cathedral *Spanish*
12:30 pm St. Joseph *Vietnamese*
1:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

MASSES HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Anticipated / Vigil
5:30 p.m. St. Boniface (English)
5:30 p.m. Cathedral (Spanish)
On the Day of the Solemnity
7:00 a.m. St. Joseph (English)
12:00 p.m. Cathedral (English)
5:30 p.m. Cathedral (Spanish)

MASS CIVIL HOLIDAYS

9:00am Cathedral (Bilingual)

CONFESSIONS

SUNDAY 8:00a- 8:30a St Joseph
MONDAY 4:30p -5:30p Cathedral
TUESDAY 4:30p -5:30p Cathedral
WEDNESDAY 4:30p-5:30p Cathedral
THURSDAY 4:30p-5:30p Cathedral
FRIDAY 11:30a -12:00p Cathedral
4:30p to 5:30p Cathedral
SATURDAY 3:00p to 4:00p St. Boniface
5:00p to 6:00p Cathedral