



Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Office of the Bishop

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April 20, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We are facing difficult times. I understand some of what you're each going through. For example, I haven't been able to visit with my own mother since Christmas and her building has been on lockdown for the last month. Each time I speak to a new person, clergy member, or business employer, I hear about the daunting circumstances that so many experience.

People hunger to get back into church. Decisions about Masses and sacraments are complex. I ask for your continued patience. I'm regularly consulting with the bishops across our state, attending to federal and local state (Indiana) pronouncements and weighing the advice of healthcare officials. My main concern is for the pastoral care for souls in our diocese.

Each bishop has his own geographical jurisdiction and I must make decisions that I think are best for our diocese. I hear from many groups, organizations and individuals advising as to how I should handle things. Through consultation with my own advisory committees I will do what is best for us. Things that work well within one family don't work for every other. The same is true from diocese to diocese.

Much work is done behind the scenes by our own employees and clergy. I have personnel responsibilities to the 1,600 people that the diocese and parishes employ on over 60 sites—including teachers and clergy, office and maintenance staffs. We have been adapting to new technologies and putting in countless hours to help support our parishes and schools to meet the needs of our students. Both the parishes and our central office have had to be inventive.

It's important to me that we remain connected. Our diocesan office of communications continues to update information regarding news, livestreamed Masses, prayer opportunities and catechetical ideas for families on our website: <https://dol-in.org/covid-19-updates>. I will be celebrating Mass at Church of the Blessed Sacrament on Mother's Day, May 10 at 8 a.m. Eastern time. This Mass will be livestreamed through the parish website: <http://churchoftheblessedsacrament.yourstreamlive.com/>

We may be keeping to our shelters, but we can be united in Christ. We might be alone in our praying, but it brings us into a communion with the whole church. If you think that current events are shocking and confusing, think about the Apostles – their friend was killed and now he eats and talks with them. Into whatever disorientation we might be feeling, invite the Risen Lord into our company – he enters our space saying to us “Peace be with you.” And on our Lord's behalf, I also wish you peace.

In Christ's peace,
Most Reverend Timothy Doherty
Bishop of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Morning of Monday, April 20, 2020