

A Word from the Executive Director of the PMD:

March, April and May have been challenging for all of us called to work in the Vineyard as servants to the people of God of the Archdiocese. In mid-March, in compliance with the Governor's stay at home order, members of the Pastoral Ministries Division began to work from home. Although we are not physically in our offices as this issued goes to press, the PMD is still hard at work for you. Because of our commitment to those we have been called to serve, each of our offices has maintained viable and necessary service to parishes, parishioners and ministers, using newly learned methods as well as the tried and true, such as:

- conducting ministry meetings and instructional classes via Zoom so that formation continues to take place
- planning and organizing for the possibility of presenting newly designed upcoming events
- reaching out and staying connected with parishioners, ministers and parish leadership through the *PMD Express*, the *Mi Casa* and other newsletters, emails, social media, and good old fashioned letters and phone calls

In the last few months, we have listened to the anxieties and worries of our co-workers, of members of parish staffs, of parents, families and pastors. It has been, and continues to be, our privilege to journey with each of you by being a listening presence—to offer prayerful support and heartfelt compassion. Know that we continue to pray for you, for the Church and for the world.

As we prepare ourselves for the road ahead, all members of the Pastoral Ministries Division recently completed training on the *Principals of Pastoral Care* presented by Mr. David Lichter, president of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. In the upcoming months, our emphasis will be on designing and providing Pastoral Care training to our constituents and ministers throughout the Archdiocese. Watch for emails and upcoming issues of the *PMD Express/ Mi Casa* for more information.

May the Spirit of God continue to guide and protect us.

Many blessings,

Michelle

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