Good afternoon,

Growing up, I always loved the Easter season. My uncle was pastor of Annunciation in downtown Houston, and I was an altar server. I was always excited to participate in the beautiful liturgies of the Easter Triduum. It made me feel a part of something special for my faith.

This past Tuesday, I concelebrated the Chrism Mass with Cardinal DiNardo, and due to the Covid-19 crisis, the pews of the Co-Cathedral were empty. One of the most significant ways this coronavirus crisis is impacting our lives is the separation we have from our parish community. I really felt that as I stood at the altar.

Holy Week is central to my life as a priest. It is when I renew my priestly vows each year. It is a time of renewal and new life for our Church. Even though we cannot be together for these Triduum celebrations, know that our priests continue to celebrate the Mass, and hold you in their prayers.

I served as a pastor for nearly 30 years before I came to the administrative offices of the Archdiocese, and I know that the Easter Triduum is not only a time of spiritual renewal, it's also vital to the financial operation of a parish.
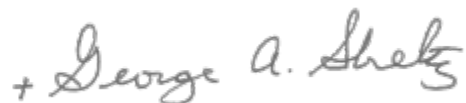
So I ask you, if you are financially able, take a moment and support your parish. You can do so at the link below and 100% of your gift will go to the parish of your choice.

https://bit.ly/archgh-parishlist

With public celebration of the Masses cancelled, many parishes are struggling. This season of renewal is a wonderful opportunity for us to respond as a people of God in faith and hope. Despite uncertain times, we know that God is unfailing in his promise to us.

As I celebrate this Easter season, I pray that the Lord gives you strength to share His love abundantly with your family and those He has placed in your life, and I pray that He will see us safely through this coronavirus pandemic.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ George A. Sheltz

Most Reverend George A. Sheltz
Auxiliary Bishop / Chancellor
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

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