

## **Monsignor Puleo Pastor Message May 3, 2020**

### **Lessons We Learn During the Quarantine**

Dear Friends in Christ,

I do not think it is possible that any parishioner who has lived through these weeks of quarantine has not taken some time to reflect on what it means to live our Catholic faith “differently” ... some of us alone ... others in close quarters ... still others with no opportunity to share time with extended family. This is also the first time we have not been able to practice our faith publicly. In fact, this is perhaps the first time in 2000 years or so that our churches have been closed “worldwide” for the celebration of Holy Mass.

Permit me to offer some things for you to reflect on.

Have these past several weeks of quarantine become an opportunity for you to experience:

- silence, prayer, and meditation (including time to unite your sufferings to those of the Lord Jesus)?
- the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament (by visiting St. Elizabeth Church or St. Brigid Church or by visiting one or more websites dedicated to Christ in the Eucharist)?
- Holy Week and Easter in the silence of your hearts and homes? Have you taken these special feasts for granted in the past? Have you really missed celebrating Holy Week and Easter with the parish community?
- renewed opportunities for prayer and what real prayer means?
- renewed opportunities to realize how important the presence of family members are to you?
- enriching experiences, especially with and for your children?
- renewed appreciation for education and formation of your children now being home-schooled, many for the first time?
- a desire to support those on the front lines such as doctors, nurses and other health personnel? ... (so often realizing that praying for those in these positions is the only way to help)?
- important lessons for your children, especially the importance of “service” vocations/occupations such as doctors, priests, nurses, fire-fighters, police, Religious Sisters and emergency responders?
- perhaps the passing of a loved one and a new way of mourning?
- that faith in the Resurrection is really the only way to experience true consolation and comfort?
- a better appreciation for doctors, nurses, hospital staff, pharmacists, police, fire fighters, friends and each other?
- a renewed appreciation for the “little things” in life and how they make a difference?
- the ease and importance of ... praying the rosary? ... lighting a candle? ... praying before an image of Christ, Our Blessed Mother or a Saint? ... using a prayer book? ... saying a favorite novena? ... or simply making the Sign of the Cross?

- less of the “daily stressors” and other “pressures” of life? Have you actually rested more than you usually do?
- the fact that patience is the virtue that you practiced more than ever before during these past several weeks?

Please don't dismiss the wonderful gains you continue to make during these days of “forced” self-isolation. Have a Family Discussion to share the lessons you have learned. Realize that it is God's Holy Spirit who unites us, helps us grow in love and supports the healing of wounds between us.

Realize too that your Parish Family of Saint Elizabeth-Saint Brigid is waiting to see you again. We really do miss you! As I mentioned to many of you along the way, when this is over, we must come together as a community for a “Mass of Thanksgiving to God” followed by a community party!

In the Risen Christ,  
Msgr. Puleo