



April 30, 2020

## ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL

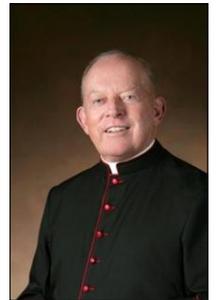
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My Dear Parishioners:

I suppose you are thinking like all of us: “When is it all going to end?” We all get impatient at having to keep social distancing, of wearing masks, of being unable to gather as a parish family for Masses & different liturgies, of having to wash hands over & over & over again! But sometimes we are called upon to set aside our own comfort and personal preferences for the common good and this is one of those opportunities. I personally join you in putting up with all those inconveniences. I really miss gathering with you each week to celebrate Eucharist, liturgical prayer, weddings, funerals, baptisms etc, but that is what we are called to do at this time.



1. Last week we commemorated the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of our former Bishop, the 5<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Yakima, Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I. who shepherded our Church from Fall 1990 to the Spring of 1996, Richard Heinlein, Editor of Simply Catholic.com who is writing a biography of the Cardinal published an article last week. “The Difference Cardinal George Makes” marking the late Cardinal’s anniversary of death. In making some educated guesses, based on his life & legacy, he gives us three main points and helps to continue our lives in this Coronavirus (COVID-19) era.
  - A. Be perseverant. Don’t give up. Remember there is always someone worse off than we are and don’t be sorry for yourself.
  - B. Be Simply Catholic. Remember that the Church is not just a set of ideas. Rather it is an encounter with Jesus Christ and with His brothers & sisters in the world. We live our faith not by looking through the prism of political parties but as Disciples of the Lord. We need to keep Church one and united.
  - C. Grow in Discipleship. When we follow Christ and try to become more like the Master we are changed. God made us to be holy and live accordingly. We are here to become saints. Everything else is of very, very secondary importance. Even in his death, Cardinal George remains a man for our time, especially in this time of crisis and the Coronavirus emergency.
2. Please remember in your prayers **Judy Weaver** who died the other day at the age of 99 years, a long time parishioner and also, finally, **Bud Stillwaggon**, a true pillar of the Church and wonderful friend to me and to so many others.

3. As I mentioned in “What’s Up, Monsignor?”, a parish vlog on our website and YouTube page (St Paul LIFETEEN), if someone approaches you for a signature against State Referendum #90 Comprehensive Sexual Health education for K-12 students in our public schools, please sign it! Our Bishops of Washington State have encouraged us to influence our State Representatives to vote “NO” because it removes from local school board protection of our values, ignores parental influence on the curriculum and, with so many monolingual and cultural Spanish-speaking in our area, doesn’t provide for parental assistance in helping to teach.
4. Again, I encourage you to sign up for FORMED, sort of a Catholic Netflix, which is also available in Spanish. Check our website for information. [parish@stpaulyakima.org](mailto:parish@stpaulyakima.org)
5. Our latest plan, if all goes well, is to schedule Confirmation for Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> and also welcome into full Communion our RCIA candidates which we couldn’t do at Easter (More to follow). This will be the rescheduled Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. First Communions will be celebrated individually under the direction and guidance of Emma Mendoza.
6. Thanks to all of you who continue to give your sacrificial gifts by direct deposit, mail or drop-off at the office. We realize that many of you cannot do so at this time and we urge those who can to make a special effort to help our parish financially during these days.
7. Remember we are called to be Christ’s light for one another. Pray for and contact by text or preferably by phone people you know who live alone. Just a simple call will brighten up the day and life of someone who is lonely. Also, as we finally get to open our Cathedral for daily & Sunday Masses, things are going to be different for a while. Social distancing will probably have to be followed in Church, Communion will be distributed only in the hand and there will be no reception of the Cup nor physical touching at the Sign of the Peace, but those things are relatively minor as long as we can gather as a Community of Faith.
8. Please note once again our daily streaming of Masses Sunday through Friday 11:00AM in English & Sundays at noon in Spanish & Tuesdays at 6:00PM. Also televised Sunday Mass: Spanish at 9:00AM on Azteca and English at 12:00PM on CW9 (KIMA). Also check our website and that of the Diocese for information and links to other helpful materials.

Know that we love each of you, care about you and are concerned for you. Our office telephone is staffed Monday-Friday 9:00AM-4:30PM and I will be happy to speak with you. Each day I offer Mass for you, our Cathedral Parish Family. Please let us know if there is an emergency situation to which we can respond. **WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!**

God bless & keep you safe and healthy.  
Devotedly In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Ecker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Msgr. John A. Ecker-VG  
Pastor