

My dear people,

In accord with guidelines from our Diocese, I am writing to inform you of possible exposure to the COVID 19 virus at Stella Maris. The guidelines state that pastors are not to disclose the names of COVID positive parishioners, however I think you should know the infected person is I (me, myself). The purpose of the notification is to alert people who might have had contact with me, picked up the virus, but are asymptomatic, and at risk of infecting others. As a precaution, if you and I have had contact, you might want to consider testing or self-quarantining or both.

You are encouraged to consult the following timeline to determine whether we might have had contact sufficient to spread the virus. My exposure might have been on Monday, June 29. On Tuesday, I met with some members of the Finance Council to work on our budget. I also had other meetings with individuals and will make contact with those persons to warn them. On Wednesday, I celebrated the 8:00 A.M. Parish Mass, likewise with the 6:30 P.M. Thursday Mass and the 4:00 P.M. Latin Mass on First Friday. On Saturday, July 4, I celebrated the 5:30 P.M. Anticipated Mass and on Sunday, I celebrated the 8:00 A.M. Mass. At all Masses, I practiced distancing and wore a mask for the distribution of Holy Communion. By Sunday night, I was aware that I might have been exposed to the virus, so I did not distribute Holy Communion at all, rather Father Michael and Deacon Vaughan handled the distribution.

I am in quarantine until at least Monday, July 20. As I get to feeling better, I plan to write to let you know my experience of the Coronavirus. In my naivete, I had assumed that were I to contract it, I would have a mild case. While my doctor does not seem concerned with my progress, I can tell you this: COVID 19 is nothing to play around with. As I told my physician: I have never felt so bad in my life and the thing lingers with chills, fever, headache, fatigue and more. Please be careful.

May St. Roch intercede for us all.

Father McInerny