



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

During these many weeks of uncertainty, we have had the opportunity to focus on what really matters in our lives: our faith in God and our love for our family and our sisters and brothers in Christ. Amid all of life's struggles, we know that God is with us. We know, too, that each of us is called to a deeper faith in God and are reminded that all we have and all we are, are gifts from our loving God.

Next weekend, we observe Stewardship Sunday in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. This is an opportune time to focus on the many gifts that God has given to us and ask ourselves "How is God calling me to share these gifts in service to others?"

I realize that we are currently facing unusual circumstances and you may ask yourself, "How am I to share my gifts during this time when events in my parish are just not able to take place?" Might I suggest a few options for you:

- Consider being part of your parish's outreach ministry by helping your fellow parishioners, especially those who are currently homebound, stay connected to your parish community. By reaching out by telephone, video chat and even an old-fashioned card or letter, we can make a real difference to those who may feel isolated.
- Ask yourself "Are there tasks that other parishioners have taken care of in the past that they are just not able to do right now? Maybe I can help!" I invite you to talk with your pastor to see if there are ministries in your parish that need an extra hand and heart.
- Pray! Pray for an end to this pandemic and for a cure to Covid-19. Pray for God's grace and healing. Seek the powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph.

I am grateful to the many youth, women and men in our parishes who are generously sharing their time, talents and resources in supporting the local family of faith and their community. May God continue to bless the work of your hands.

Please be assured of my continued prayers for the health and safety of your families.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry R. LaValley".

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg

