

March 26, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

We want to express our care and concern for the health and safety of you, our parishioners, as well as the good of our parish and community. First, please reflect with me on this passage from the 5th Sunday of Lent:

Jesus said to her, "Your brother [Lazarus] will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world" (John 11:23-27)

We encounter Jesus' closeness to Martha and his consolation of her through faith. Jesus invites us to the same moment. While the verse we would be singing for this Sunday is "We are there when the dead man lives again," we could also unite ourselves to Martha and sing "We are there when Jesus consoles his friend." God transcends any separation forced upon us and Jesus speaks to us as his friend.

In the midst of this pandemic, God calls us to minister in a different way and we need your help. The following is a list of our actions and what we need from you.

1. We are keeping the church open from 7:30 am to 7:30 pm each day to provide a place to pray. **Please pray either at home or at church.** Please remember CDC guidelines and bring disinfectant wipes for anything you touch. Also, we are keeping our office open and following CDC guidelines as well. Please use the mail slot on the door to drop things off.
2. A team of parishioners led by the Social Justice Committee have attempted to call all parishioners to check-in. For those who we have been able to contact, you are a resilient bunch and doing well overall. However, this has also highlighted an issue with our database. Our information is not current. Enclosed in this letter is the contact information that we have for you. **We would appreciate it if you would help us update our information.** If everything is correct, please send it back with that indication as well.
3. We are working on strengthening our online presence! **Please follow our website stcolumbkille.net or request to join the Facebook group: Saint Columbkille Dubuque Catholic Church.** As far as Sunday Mass, we are currently assisting Archbishop Jackels' celebration of Mass in our seminary chapel. **See dbqarch.org.**
4. Our primary outreach work is through the Knights of Columbus and St. Vincent de Paul. I know many of our "older" members are placing themselves in harm's way to provide food and necessities for those in need. Thank you for your good ministry.
5. The Archdiocese has asked us not to layoff any employees at this time. We continue to pay our bills and keep our people employed. However, **we do need your ongoing support.** From July 2019 to February 2, 2020, your donations were right in line with our

budget. After that date, we started seeing an ever increasing drop. Your average donation is \$18,759 per week. This past Sunday, March 22, we received \$7,155.80. While we do have money in savings, it will not last long if we are behind over \$10,000 each week. We are responding in multiple ways.

- a. Enclosed is an EFT form that will allow you to support St. Columbkille by direct transfer from your bank to ours. (We are utilizing the back side of the EFT form for your contact information update. You can complete both sides and return them in the enclosed envelope.)
 - b. The Archdiocese will provide a credit card service for contributions to St. Columbkille.
 - c. We are working on reducing or eliminating any expenditure we can.
 - d. Our Finance Council is looking at a range of budgets for next year based upon different levels of financial havoc created by the virus.
6. Our Lady of the Souix depends upon our “loose coin” collection. **I ask for your support for our sister parish as well.** Please write the check to St. Columbkille with “Our Lady of the Sioux” in the note area.

We tried to highlight what needs to be addressed at this time. We acknowledge the impact of this virus but the fear of it is not going to rule our lives. St. Columbkille is here to proclaim the God who is with us, who speaks to our hearts, and calls us to participate in his resurrected life. I pray you can hear Jesus speak to you: “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” May we be like Martha and say, “**Yes, I do believe.**”

Please use the enclosed form to update this information or contact the office (583-9117) with any questions.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. David Schatz



Contact Information

Everything is correct.

Please correct or add the following information:
