

Dear Our Lady of Ransom Family,

At the risk of flooding your inbox, there is a very important update I need to share with you. Late last night, the Archdiocese came out with new norms that I am required to follow. As of 5pm today (Saturday) the Church will be locked. Moreover, all baptisms, weddings and funerals between now and April 7 are canceled.

Many of you have told me you struggle to see how the Church in Chicago is following the practices of holy men and women, of the saints throughout the ages; individuals of heroic virtue who in a time of social crisis increased their ministry and availability. Those responsible for these decisions are trying to care for us all. We must pray for them, and especially pray for the virtue of prudence to be given to them.

There is a tremendous grace in this time, the grace of remembering that the Church is not her buildings. The Church is the Mystical Body of Christ, of which all the baptized are members. The Gospel must still be preached, Jesus must still be proclaimed, and the Paschal Mystery still transforms lives.

I invite you to read the Acts of the Apostles. Look at how the early Church zealously lived the mission of Jesus Christ. We must relearn how to be a Church of missionary zeal, a Church that shares the liberating power of the Gospel with the world. Because, while I may have to lock the doors of the Church, that mission, that Great Commission of Jesus continues: "Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; and teaching them all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

Our Lady of Ransom, pray for us.

In Christ,

Fr. Matt Bozovsky