

April 9, 2020

My Dear Friends,

The holiest days of the year are here, and even under the singular circumstances in which we find ourselves now, they require my prayerful time and attention. I feel the need to sign off for the next few days to give my undivided attention to the sacred liturgies. I will carry you all in my mind and in my heart; you remain very present to me.

Our parish staff are, and have been, so wonderful, and so have you. Father Lino is a priest like no other; he is a gift to all of us. I could not ask to be in a better place this Holy Week than I am here with them and with you. Tomorrow, Good Friday is a diocesan holiday and our parish office will be completely closed. In addition, I have given our parish staff off on Easter Monday, as I usually do. They deserve more than I can ever give them. So do you.

All of us here on our parish grounds will experience the silence of God more profoundly than ever before. The tolling of our bell each day and throughout the day comforts me in a way I never expected. It reminds me that the times when we have Mass together again physically (for we are deeply united spiritually) will return one day, when I do not know; nor do I need to know anything anymore than what actually happens right in front of me. Remember: *If things happen, it's because the Lord want them to happen. If they don't, it means He doesn't. It's so simple.* Why should I ever again speculate about things which I have no control over and only God knows?

God willing, our parish staff will return on Tuesday, and I will write you again then. Until then, I send you my blessing through the air, with prayers for a most blessed Easter, while remaining

Your unworthy pastor always,

Father Robert J. DeMartino