



Bishop's Office – Bureau de l'Évêque
30 Ste-Anne, Sudbury ON P3C 5E1
Tel: (705) 674-2727 Fax/Télécopieur: (705) 674-9889
m.damphousse@ssmd.ca

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MESSAGE TO FIRST RESPONDERS AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS

As do many other people, I wish to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts and sacrifices being put forward by our first responders, health and spiritual care teams and all other healthcare workers in our hospitals, nursing homes and home care settings.

Health care workers currently face new and unprecedented concerns, such as fears about the rapid spread of the virus, concern for family members who are not allowed to visit their loved ones, isolation of patients while they are most vulnerable, uncertainty about the short and long-term impact of the pandemic.

We assure you that, by following the critically important guidelines of our public health authorities, we are doing everything we can, in solidarity with all Canadians, to help flatten the curve of the pandemic and thus lighten your burden.

I join the priests and the faithful of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie in assuring all of the front-line workers of our prayerful support. We pray for your safety and courage, as you so generously give the best of yourselves to serve the sick, the vulnerable and the dying, often at your own personal risk. For your patients, you are a concrete expression of God's compassionate love. Thank you!

May God bless you for your selfless dedication, sacrifice and perseverance during these exceptional times.

On behalf of the people of our Diocese, I sincerely thank you. Along with Christians around the world who have entered into the Holy Week that leads to Easter, may we call upon Jesus Christ's victory over death and evil to put an end to this pandemic and provide consolation to all those who have suffered from this crisis.

Yours in Christ,

+Marcel Damphousse
Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie