

November 24, 2020

As you know, Franklin County is now in the RED zone with COVID 19 cases. We all need and want the Eucharist. But, with the pandemic's risks, I am not sure if one priest, can, or should, be making in-person Communion visits to all the 50+ care-bound people of our parish.

I say this for the sake of both the care-bound member and for the priest. Both are COVID vulnerable to each other. Some think a priest should be making the sacrifice to be among the isolated bringing them the Eucharist during the pandemic. But one may need to be aware that in doing so a priest could be bringing COVID to the care-bound or vice versa. If the priest gets COVID, then the entire parish may be affected -- a parish without a priest. If there is no priest, there are no Masses. It's a tough call.

I think at this RED time especially, our parish should continue to restrict our parish's vulnerable members or senior EMOHC from bringing Holy Communion to the care-bound, considering the risks both an EOMHC brings to the care-bound and the risks which the care-bound present to an EMOHC.

It is best to make sure that we inform all our care-bound and their families that in case of any urgent **NEED**, especially for Last Rites (Viaticum), Confession, or the Sacrament of the Sick (**especially, those preparing for any kind of inpatient surgery, under major anesthesia**) they should contact the parish office. I will vet with each care-bound member's request and situation. The Most Blessed Sacrament will be brought to those in need of these sacraments.