



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

July 28, 2020

The Very Reverend Michael Kissane, O.Carm.  
St. Simon Stock - St. Joseph Catholic Church  
2191 Valentine Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10457-2201

Dear Father Kissane:

Thank you for supporting New York City in our efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. By partnering with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and opening the doors of St. Simon Stock - St. Joseph Catholic Church to help expand our testing efforts, you have made a significant impact in the community and advanced our mission to prevent the spread of this deadly virus.

Our new hyper-local approach to testing allows us to target individuals in neighborhoods with low testing rates and high percentages of positive tests, and connect them with important resources and services. As the first testing center in this program, St. Simon Stock demonstrated just how effective this effort will be: more than 2,000 New Yorkers received a test in just two weeks.

At this difficult time, our clergy leadership and faith communities remain essential, and we are tremendously grateful to you and everyone at St. Simon Stock for your enduring service to the Fordham Heights and Mount Hope communities. Your flexibility and willingness to take on this project on such short notice, efforts to coordinate with the Archdiocese, and promotion of the "Core Four" messages during Mass greatly contributed to its success. Many thanks again for being an invaluable asset to our city. Stay healthy, stay safe, and stay strong.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill de Blasio".

Bill de Blasio  
Mayor