This Week’s Letter During the Corona Virus Crisis

My Dear Parish family,

How are you doing? We are about to enter our second week of staying home or facing unbelievable situations and numbers at work, and for many of us it seems like it has been a lot longer! Yet, this is only the beginning, and there is still a few more weeks ahead of us. It is probably not too much of a guess to say it will be a lot longer before we really get back to normal (whatever that means).

How are you coping? I hope and pray that by the Grace of God you are making the most of this stay at home time. As I look out my window, I see that many of you are cleaning out closets and rooms, doing projects which you did not have time to do before. How do I know this? Well I see many donations being made at the St. Vincent DePaul clothing bins. I thought this would be a good time for me to catch up on some reading. Guess again, I have not stopped since this period began. I find I am doing a great deal of the staff’s everyday actions; believe me they work very hard for the parish and I want them back.

I am happy to see that so many of you are taking advantage of the Church remaining open during the day. We are very lucky to have this, because in the Brooklyn Diocese, not only are the Church offices closed, the Churches were ordered to be locked to help stop the spread of our favorite virus. Again, this is the reason why Mases and all other Sacramental moments had to be suspended, we had to do our part to stop the spread. While we all know these facts, this knowledge does not prevent us from being frustrated. I know because I am too. And I can say that during these weeks I have been in discussions with Fr. Hyacinth, Deacons Jim, Barry and Tom as to what we can do to better minster to you. However, every idea we come up with and so many of you have come up with, the Diocese tells us not to do. Again, it is because of the fear of spreading the virus. While some of us may say, I am not afraid, others are, and some of these people are at high risk. I would not want to have an event here at St. Edward’s, only to find out because of it somebody contracted the virus or even worse died. I could not live with that and I am sure none of us could.

So, what do we do? Let’s not lose faith in Jesus, this Sunday’s Gospel tells the story of Lazarus. When everyone believed all was lost, because Jesus’ friend had passed away, Jesus showed them otherwise. He called Lazarus out of the tomb and returned him to this life, but I can assure you, nothing went back to normal for Lazarus, his sisters and the whole world. Jesus changed everything, and He is doing the same for us now. Do not give up prayer, and ask God to help you, your families and your friends to view this time under a new light. Use this time well and use it to come to pray together as a family, you could say a family Rosary, Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. You can watch CFN and EWTN. Look at the material on Flock Notes or on our Web Site. Do not forget as a member of St, Edward’s you automatically belong to Formed. There are many faith-filled options all at your hands, so use them.

Let me conclude with the following ***Act of Spiritual Communion***. Say this until we are all able to receive Jesus again at our Sunday and Weekday Masses.

*God bless you always. Fr. Mike*

***My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You Sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen***