

March 13, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I have a lot to say about the Corona Virus, but the most important thing I can tell you right now is to pray and pray often for this to end. There are many things that we need to be concerned about, and our prayers backed up by concrete actions are absolutely vital.

When you pray, first of all, it is important that we pray for world leaders. This includes leaders in the Church, as well as our secular leaders like our president, congress, governor and local governance. It would even include influential business owners who have a lot to worry about in these times.

Leading in times like this is not easy. When threats like a virus materialize you want to acknowledge the threat and the fears people have about it, but you don't want to say too much because you don't want to inflame unnecessary panic. Thus, it can be incredibly difficult, if not outright impossible, to hit the right tone. So our leaders need your prayers.

Many people are dismissing concerns about the COVID-19 because on the surface it doesn't seem very threatening to some. We need to remember, however, that the rate of death is not the only thing to consider. This disease is causing hospitalization for pneumonia, and even a few extra cases can deplete resources, the most crucial being space for patients and nurses to care for them. When these resources are depleted, people who might need urgent care will not be as likely to receive it.

This is why it is so important for us to stop the spread of the virus and why we all need to do our part without complaint, which includes limiting our interactions with others. So, we need to pray for this virus to stop spreading immediately.

We also need to consider, however, that a lot of the things people see as overreactions are also serious. Many events have been cancelled, including sporting events, concerts, and conventions. This will have a very significant economic impact on many people who work hourly and live paycheck to paycheck. People who work in hotels and restaurants, those who work as custodians and security, will all feel a very significant loss. We must pray for all of those facing economic hardships as a result of this.

And so, we also need to pray for ourselves in these times. This is a moment when faithful people can have a very significant impact on the world. In these times, we especially need to be generous, patient, kind, and peaceful. You might recognize those as fruits of the Holy Spirit. Our own prayer in these moments will cause those fruits within us to grow and they will make an impact right now. So pray that those fruits take root in you and all people, so that we can get through this trial peacefully.

I still have more to say, so stay tuned for more information.

Fr. Bryan