

Carrying the Light of Faith in Troubling Times



Yesterday was the Feast of St. Joseph. I had planned to visit St. Joseph Church in Patterson to celebrate him and the dedication of 2020 as “his year” in recognition of his 150th anniversary as patron of the universal church. COVID-19 changed those plans, but as has been my experience of late, a new opportunity appeared. Instead, I took part in a world-wide rosary at 3 pm CST called for by Pope Francis. The concept of “universal church” really stood out to me knowing that we Catholics were mobilizing as one voice and carrying the light of faith on a very special feast day in a time of great need.

What I have come to realize is though public Masses and other religious ceremonies may be temporarily cancelled, ***the church is alive and responding everywhere!*** The Church carries on its mission, ***especially*** in times of crisis. We are reminded 365 times in the Bible to fear not and to push forward with hope and courage. Now is the time to step forward in faith as St. Joseph did when he faced an uncertain future with Jesus and Mary.

As Catholics we also need to mobilize here at home to stand in solidarity with our church parishes. To the extent that you are able, please continue to financially support your parish. Mail in your check or use online giving if available in your parish. With COVID-19, I have seen the creativity of our wonderful parish priests as they think out-of-the-box to connect with their flocks. Calling upon our faith, let's offer what we can as they juggle parish finances.

Given the human need that is growing by the minute, the Diocese decided on Joseph's feast day of March 19 to also step out in faith by establishing the St. Joseph Fund in response to the impacts of COVID-19. More details will be

forthcoming, but 100% of any contributions will be for relief efforts. We don't know this minute what new actions will be most helpful and sustainable, but we are actively exploring the possibilities. Your thoughts and ideas are welcome as we think this through! And please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us.

Your Church is still on mission. It is alive and responding. Masses are being live-streamed. Rosaries are being said. Lay people are forming virtual prayer groups and checking in on their elderly neighbors. More and more Catholics are openly sharing their spiritual journeys on social media. Catholic Charities of Acadiana is faithfully sheltering the homeless and caring for the most vulnerable.

But we are living as Church in a place we have never been. In the hope of the Resurrection, let's bring our faith and values with us wherever this virus takes us. "Fear not for I am with you." (Isaiah 43:5)

Faithfully,

Margaret

Margaret H. Trahan

Director, Office of Stewardship and Development

Insight & Inspiration



We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.

St. Mother Teresa

Get Involved!

Call or email (or socially network with) your parents and grandparents, relatives, and any friends who may feel isolated, living alone, or who may be susceptible to the Coronavirus to provide a kind word, to see what help they need, or to provide your love and support in these challenging days.

[Click here to see a complete list of diocesan resources and opportunities.](#)

2020
BISHOP'S
SERVICES APPEAL
Supporting the Works of Christ

DIOC**ES**E
OF LAFAYETTE
Centennial Campaign

#iGIVECATHOLIC
on
#GIVINGTUESDAY