

March 16, 2020

Dear Friends:

This Lent is proving to be an experience none of us could have imagined! Allow me to offer just a few thoughts about moving through this difficult period. We know that Lent is a period of preparation and penance which looks to Jesus in his experience in the desert.

The desert is a place of isolation, of loneliness, of thirst, of temptation, and even of death. In many ways given our present situation, I think we can each relate this to the desert we presently are living in; we are even isolated from the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and thus, from receiving Our Lord in communion! I would like to suggest to all of us that God allows this time to be as it is and invites us to enter into the challenge of a Lenten season which carries with it uncertainty and even fear.

I want you to know that everyday I am celebrating Holy Mass and in my heart, I am holding up each and everyone of you and your families to the mercy of God.

I suggest that as this time moves on, there are things I would recommend doing. First of all, I encourage you to daily recite the rosary asking Our Mother to bring our world healing. I encourage you to go to the passion narratives in the Gospels and read each account prayerfully. Undoubtedly, you may be able to attend Mass via EWTN on a daily basis and make a spiritual communion. If you wish to go to confession, please feel free to call the office, and I will make an appointment with you to hear your confession.

I also suggest we hold in our prayers those in the world whose suffering far surpasses ours. I'm thinking in particular of the Christian people being slaughtered in places like Nigeria and other areas of repression. How easy it is to forget them! I'm thinking of the religious repression in places like communist China. In so many ways our suffering is nothing in comparison to theirs!

Finally let me say that although we are not together, I personally feel very close to each of you as a good shepherd would. Again, feel free to call if you need an appointment to just talk. I'm here.

In the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Fr. Tom

P.S. We will keep you posted as things are communicated to us from the Bishop. For the present, all activities in the parish are temporarily cancelled.