

Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you believe. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet still believe." --John 20:29

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Please forgive me for leading with an Easter message during this season of Lent. However, the famous words that Christ spoke to Thomas at the resurrection seem most appropriate given our current state of events.

While everyone is trying to make sense of the unusual chaos in our world today, the encounter Thomas had with Christ is one that grounds me in my faith. No, I can't answer anything about the science of corona virus. Neither can I predict the future. I even have my struggles and concerns like everyone else. But one thing is certain—faith is the bedrock of what we believe.

While we are separated from each other physically, I want to remind you that we are all connected in one spirit in Christ. I hold each of you in my prayers every hour of every day. And I ask you to do the same for me and each other.

With this in mind, I have formalized a Ministry of Prayer by asking the members of Vincentian Woman and the Men's Small Prayer Group to join me in receiving your petitions to be remembered in our prayers each day. You can respond publicly through our online Facebook page, or to me privately by email. I promise to personally respond to every message I receive. Additionally, I am will be calling upon the Community Life Commission for expanded support in the area of Pastoral Care and Outreach.

I ask that you remember me, too, and my family in your prayers. Just this week, my sister was admitted to the hospital with Leukemia. It was such a painful experience to say goodbye, knowing that we would not see her again for at least thirty days while under quarantine.

As Catholics, we believe that our prayers make a difference in the world. We offer our petitions publicly every week at Mass with this idea in mind. And now more than ever, we must band together as a community of faith and keep this practice alive. We all know that prayer is not likely to eradicate a virus or protect us from naturally occurring events. But it does orient our spiritual being to receive God's grace in even the most difficult of times.

Please be assured that our parish staff is continuing to work diligently behind the scenes to keep our parish alive and well. I am so grateful to all of our staff for their professionalism and dedication to their ministry. We are truly blessed to have them as they are continue to work remotely to serve you.

I also want to take this moment to direct you to additional information regarding Mass cancelations and the temporary closing of our soup kitchen. Be assured we are working to redirect critical services to the most vulnerable members of our community.

I continue to pray for each of you that while we are physically apart, you will continue to find God's grace in this moment. Blessed are those who have not seen yet still believe.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Fr. Jeremy Dixon, C.M.