

Let us stay connected to God, to the Church and to one another!

This has been our slogan since we were hit by Covid-19 into quarantine.

All of this has been crazy. It is a situation that no one can escape. The world and the way we operate has changed. Let me share with you my personal experience from the Church perspective.

I am a priest, that yes, uses a computer, and the media for so many things, but I was more into approaching of building community from personal relationships: groups meetings, house blessings and visitations, face to face spiritual directions, parish celebrations, activities that would promote closeness with the church and with the pastoral work of the parish. During the last 4 years we grew in Group Ministries, Adult Formation Meetings, Kids and Youth Groups Activities, Spiritual Reflections and Retreats, Parish Registrations, Bilingual Masses, Parish Life, etc.... We have always had a Facebook and web page, but honestly, that was not my priority or my area of expertise. I have a Pastoral outreach background and my Priestly formation were more into interpersonal contact and people gathering. This was the principal way of Evangelization and building community.

Now, life has changed! A bigger challenge came to my Ministry! One day I woke up and no one was coming to Church, no group meetings were allowed, no visitation, no personal contact, no community presence. It did strike my heart and pastoral view of a Church. So now, I must be active on Social Media. We have to re-think and re-create the new pastoral approaching to the faithful... I need to change my priorities! Now it is Facebook, YouTube, a Web Cam, Live Stream and it goes on. This has been a hard but beautiful challenge!

I miss you all, but I know that somehow the Word of God, his blessings and comfort comes to you from this media. I was never alone! I have never been alone... The Parish staff stands by me, giving me ideas, strengthening me with their support, follow and put into action my crazy ideas, my desire to come to you no matter what and bring to you the Healing and Hope that Christ proclaims and offers. All of this is new to me, but I know as well that all of this is new for you as well.

If it is strange for me to celebrate mass without seeing you, I cannot imagine how confusing it is for you to attend Church from a Phone or Tv, or even in the Parking Lot. But we are not alone! God is the one who provides ways to encounter him through all of this. God will never abandon you; He will use all the means that Man through his wisdom has created. Maybe we thought Men were so intelligent to understand the media, internet, etc.... But it was God that had a purpose in all what he allows men to do... so everything will be for his glory!

- Thank you for your support, please find delight in praying through what we can provide for you at the moment. Some things that might help you find the sacredness at home while you participate and watch the Mass are:

- Take the hour only for the celebration of the Mass
- Do not think because you are home you can have a drink, eat or do something else while celebrating the Mass, you still are before God. Your home becomes your Church
- Do not answer calls or anything that can distract you from the Mass.
- Help yourself by lighting a candle or putting a Cross near you
- Follow the Mass as if you were present in Church, with the same respect and veneration to God.
- While you assist Mass through your device, place all your prayers before God...Your Home becomes God's Temple.

I have learned a lot during this time, I came to the knowledge that I must renew constantly my way to Evangelize. Please help me to help others come closer to God through these new ways. Invite others to follow us on Facebook and YouTube to

participate in our celebrations. Do not let them walk away from the Church. If they are your family, invite them to celebrate the Mass at home or come to the Church. This is part of our ministry now. We must respond to God with a joyful heart and an open mind. He will direct our steps; He is in-charge of the Boat!

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