

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During these trying times we need to focus on what is truly important – our families, and the needs of the most vulnerable among us in the community. Our faith is also truly important and never more so than in a time of crisis – both personal crises and communal crises.

Saint Paul states in Romans 5:5 that "hope does not disappoint." This hope that Paul calls us to does not reside in human institutions or in human beings, but in Jesus Christ, the one who gave his life for us. Paul in his own testimony of the trials and tribulations<sup>1</sup> he endured makes it clear that hope does not *evade* suffering but encompasses it. Suffering, as you know is part of life. We don't always understand why and we don't make excuses for it. But God the Father, and Jesus, his Son is with us every step of the way.

We clergy are here to support you in remaining steadfast and full of hope that God will indeed protect us, that the impact of the crises will be lessened, and that we and our loved ones will safely endure to the end. What is of most necessity right now is that we remain calm, focus on what is needed for support for ourselves and our families, and to pray.

The Eucharist, Communion, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ are the source and summit of our Catholic faith. Although we can pray to God in our own homes, we are more comfortable in being with the risen Lord in our churches. With this in mind, until the time in which we can once again come together for public worship, both the Rowley and Georgetown churches will be open for individual prayer on Sundays from 7 AM to Noon with the Blessed Sacrament exposed. Additionally, the Georgetown church will be open Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 6 PM. So you know, Father Dan continues to celebrate Mass every day for your intentions, as well as for the protection and safety of healthcare providers and first responders.

Finally, I have to make a plea ... Your continued financial support is desperately needed. Our employees rely on their income as much as you rely on your income as they too have bills to pay. And, the utilities expect payment no matter what. Please mail your envelopes and/or checks to Saint Mary's Parish – 94 Andover St. Georgetown, MA 01833. Or you can drop them off at the office Monday through Friday 9 AM to 1 PM. Each church also has an offering box near its front entrance for cash donations while the church is open. Thank you in advance.

Please do not hesitate to contact either one of us via the main number of the parish (978) 352-2024 or by email: Deacon Ray - [Rayd2@comcast.net](mailto:Rayd2@comcast.net) / Father Dan – [fatherdanmccoy@yahoo.com](mailto:fatherdanmccoy@yahoo.com)

Sincerely yours in service to the Lord and to you, with love and assurance of prayer,

*Father Dan & Deacon Ray*

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<sup>i</sup> 2 Cor. 12:8-10