

From Bishop Larry....

Dear friends and fellow Philippians,

It is now clear to us through medical leaders, the governor's office, and the White House, that we are in this health crisis for weeks, perhaps months, to come. None of us have lived through such a time as this. Yet, the attitude we carry into the days ahead is key. We are people whose story of human relationships with God goes back thousands of generations of time. Over and over through the great prophets and sages we were taught that God is in the midst of us...all of us. This is time for us to see the opportunities that always rise up in darkest times. We can wring our hands and complain, or we can join with myriad other people who are finding ways to help one another, check in with each other, make a quick trip to the grocery store for someone who shouldn't be out, create new ways of "being together" while not needing to gather, and tend even more deeply to our own spiritual well being.

We have temporarily lost our most treasured time to tend our spirits; coming to church. Last Sunday the gospel reading and sermon reminded us that we don't come to church to collect Living Water. It rises up within us as it is doing in this difficult time. We long to be fed by the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. But Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." That bread sustains us even when it cannot be handed to us. It, too, rises up within us and sustains us.

We will continue to use the internet for every Sunday's sermon and other reflections. This offers sustenance for our souls until we can be back together. Remember this; we are helping in a worldwide effort to stem the tide of this virus when we don't gather. We do our part along with literally millions of fellow citizens.

I miss seeing you! But we will one day come back to our beautiful St. Philip's. Pray for me. I pray for you.

Bishop Larry