

**From:** Fr. Michael J. Lumpe  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 4:05 PM  
**Subject:** Update Letter to Priests

Dear brother priests:

It has been another busy day, but a productive one. But in the busyness of the day I hope you were able to get outside and enjoy some of the beautiful weather.

I have a few items to share with you.

**FIRST, thank you, again,** to the 11 priests who met the outlined criteria and stepped forward for today's COVID-19 "end of life" sacramental care PPE training and Q&A with the team of Dr. Marian Schuda, Fr. Mike Lumpe and Fr. Dean Mathewson. I was able to listen in on a good portion of today's ZOOM conference call with the priests and it was another good session of discussion, questions and answers.

A third ZOOM conference call for COVID-19 "end of life" sacramental care Q&A and PPE training will be offered tomorrow, **Friday, March 27, at 1:00 p.m.** If you meet the criteria for COVID-19 "end of life" sacramental care visits, and have not yet participated in one of these ZOOM conference call opportunities, I would encourage you to do so by contacting Mike Lumpe via e-mail ([mlumpe@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:mlumpe@columbuscatholic.org)) for ZOOM sign-in information.

**SECOND,** as I mentioned yesterday, in solidarity with the **Holy Father's extraordinary *Urbi et Orbi* Blessing**, I am calling for a **Diocesan Day of Prayer and Penance** to beseech the Lord's mercy as the entire world suffers under the Coronavirus pandemic. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio will host a priest from our Diocese at the top of each hour, leading our community in prayer and reflection. Additionally, it will be airing Pope Francis' blessing at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. **[Click on this sentence to find more information and listen to both events at St. Gabriel's website.](#)** You can also watch Pope Francis' blessing on the EWTN Network at 3 p.m., with encore presentations at 8 p.m. and 5 a.m.; it can also be seen on the Catholic Faith Network at [www.cfntv.org](http://www.cfntv.org). Saturday on your cable/dish network **[or click on this area to be taken to their website.](#)**

**[To learn more about the significance of this papal blessing, click anywhere in this sentence and watch a short video from the U.S. Conference for Catholic Bishops.](#)**

**THIRD,** as you well know there has been a lot of creativity at work by our priests and others to maintain contact with parishioners utilizing various social media platforms, and a number of on-line resources for the benefit of the faithful in all age groups. I am very grateful for your creative outreach methods. Fr. Adam

Streitenberger has compiled a list of best practices and resources for everyone's benefit. I encourage you to look this information over (attached), explore what might be useful and enlightening for you parishioners, and to see how you might do things differently during these challenging times. Fr. Adam is available to answer your questions about any of these programs, or direct you to parishes where some of these best practices and resources are already being used. Please contact Fr. Adam via e-mail at: [frstreitenberger@gmail.com](mailto:frstreitenberger@gmail.com) .

**FOURTH**, some additional liturgical directives were sent to bishops this afternoon from the USCCB. I want to incorporate these latest measures into the document I originally planned to share with you today, thus I will send the Holy Week and Easter directives to you tomorrow.

Thank you for all of your extra efforts during this time. As priests we have been called to serve, not to be served, and it shows by our actions during this time of the coronavirus that each of us have taken our call to the priesthood seriously and lovingly.

Fraternally,  
Bishop Brennan

## Some Best Practices and Resources During COVID-19 Isolation Diocese of Columbus

Over the last several days we have received many questions about how to accompany our people during this time of isolation. Here are some best practices and resources to consider.

### I. Digital media platforms:

- A. The parish website is key to accompaniment during this time. Now is the time to invest some attention and resources into improving parish websites, especially if staff have down time working from home.
- B. A **platform for livestreaming**—YouTube seems like the best option. Share a worship aid, or some form of accessing hymns, responses, and Mass readings when livestreaming. Many started livestreaming with Facebook but have found that the quality lags. Parishes are livestreaming daily Masses, Rosaries, Holy Hours, the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Stations of the Cross. Onestream.LIVE is being used to pre-record high quality content that streams live.
- C. Easy **tithing platform** (e.g. [eCatholic](#), [Paypal](#), [Tithe.ly](#) is waiving the subscription fee for 6 months if you are looking for a new system.)
- D. Some **method of connecting** daily with parishioners. Platforms depend on the demographic, so consider the make-up of your parish. Instagram, Facebook, [Mailchimp](#), [Flocknote](#), or email campaigns cover your bases pretty well. If possible, have 1-3 people funneling all your communications.
- E. Canva is a simple, free tool for infographics, attractive Mass schedules for social media, thumbnails for YouTube videos, etc.
- F. This [facebook group](#) is meant for parish staff members in our region striving to use media platforms effectively. This [facebook group](#) is meant for all parish staff members to discuss more generic questions.
- G. [Revive](#) is a great resource with many helpful resources and best practices.
- H. Word on Fire Institute is offering a summit: [Evangelization on Social Media](#)
- I. [Technical help](#) for parishes learning how to livestream.
- J. [Zoom](#) is particularly helpful for continuing marriage preparation sessions, prayer/formation small groups, meeting with parish finance council, and connecting with staff. They have recently dropped their 40-minute cut-off for nonsubscribers. Zoom has a feature that allows you to invite up to 500 people for a session, and then break them into smaller groups for discussion.
- K. The best and most versatile source for online formation programming is [Formed](#). Currently, access is free.
- L. Direct people to [St. Gabriel Radio](#)

### II. Reaching elderly Catholics:

- A. Phone tree: invite parishioners to connect with the next person on the list. This would work especially well in rural regions.
- B. Organize a Buddy System, asking for volunteers (including those who were bringing Communion to the homebound) to contact the elderly and homebound

before COVID-19. This effort can be expanded to inactive families and eventually the whole parish. The volunteers call them, identify themselves as parish members, letting them know the parish cares, listening to them, praying with them, asking if there are things the parish can continue to pray for, and checking to see if they need anything.

- III. Reaching inactive Catholics/non-Catholics:
  - A. Make sure some livestream/online events are not just for insiders. Promote those events widely on social media to hopefully invite in non-Catholics.
  - B. Curiosity-promoting social media posts asking spiritual questions and inviting hope and prayer.
  - C. Promotion on social media of opportunities to connect with the parish to discern RCIA for the fall.
- IV. Sacramental prep
  - A. Send out [retreats at home](#) or activities for the family to do together.
  - B. [Faith and Life and Didache series](#) are now free online (K – 12).
  - C. [Online Pre-Cana](#); [Better Together](#) videos and pre-marital inventory for couples
  - D. [Dynamic Catholic](#) has their First Communion preparation program online.
  - E. [Ascension Press'](#) Chosen Confirmation program is online too, but you have to pay for it.
  - F. Some parishes are livestreaming confirmation classes.
  - G. Provide a “virtual tour” of the church or of the Mass for kids via livestream.
- V. Family/Domestic Church resources
  - A. During this time together, families could [enthroned the Sacred Heart](#) in their homes.
  - B. [Teaching Catholic Kids](#)
  - C. [Messy Family Project](#)
  - D. [Catholic Icing](#)
  - E. [52 Sundays](#) sends out weekly ideas for Sunday celebration in the domestic church
  - F. [Catholic Mom Sunday Activities for Kids](#)
  - G. [Teaching the Saints](#)
  - H. [Magnifikid](#) and [Magnificat](#) online are being offered for free.
  - I. Invite families to share their “best practices” for quality time and spiritual growth for possible sharing in a bulletin or Flocknote.
  - J. Damascus is providing content for youth and families on their Facebook page.
  - K. Share these online resources for married couples:
    - i. [Marriage Kit](#) for relationship skills
    - ii. [Couple Check-up](#) for Churches
    - iii. [Alexander House](#) Marriage Community
    - iv. [Off the Charts](#) Community for NFP
- VI. Online Faith Formation
  - A. [Upper Room](#): Franciscan University offers webinars and other resources
  - B. [The Quarantined Catholic Hub](#) (Scott Hahn)
  - C. [Homilies at Home Collection](#)

- D. [The Thomistic Institute](#) is offering free lectures
- E. [Walking with Purpose](#) is offering a weekly Bible study for women's groups
- F. [Blessed is She](#) offers daily devotions via email
- G. [Be Not Afraid Online Conference](#)
- H. [Catholic Online Summit](#)
- I. [Pray More Novenas](#)
- J. [Word on Fire](#) – daily livestreamed Mass, courses, resources, etc.
- K. [The Wild Goose Is Loose](#) – video series and study guides