



Paulist Center Boston

Dear Friends on the Journey,

I begin with a heartfelt “thank you” to **two groups of people**, one high profile, the other not:

1) Thanks to our **wonderful volunteers** for the **Food Pantry** distribution on Tuesday. And thanks to our wonderful volunteers for our **Wednesday Night Supper Club**: a hardy group came in the afternoon to prepare the individually packaged dinners and another wave came in closer to 6 pm to staff the assembly line of carts to where the meals were distributed at the Red Doors that mark “the church with the Red Doors” (as we are fondly referred to by our unhoused guests and neighbors). And then those who cleaned up afterwards. The Paulist Center Community at its finest! (About 180 meals, and how many of our guests were sooooo grateful for our welcoming them. As usual, when strife hits, the most vulnerable pay the first and highest price. So thanks to our volunteers!).

The **second group** of people I wish to hold up for gratitude, grace, and commendation: the dozens, hundreds of Paulist Center folks who, without fanfare but much strength, faith, and imagination, watched over their children at home, their parents who feel vulnerable and uneasy going out, and watched over one another during this Lent we never anticipated. We will never know the – I use this word deliberately – **holiness** of so many people whose private moments of fear and weariness and discouragement we will never know, but are known, and accompanied by, our Gracious God.

Here it would be appropriate to note that the Paulist Center intends to keep our wonderful employees for the foreseeable future. Other Church Communities are not as fortunate as we are insofar as we have kept a “rainy day” fund for events such as those (who could have predicted?). So we will be keeping our wonderful maintenance, janitorial, and administrative folks on for the duration, as we can. Thank you so much for your generosity in the past and present which makes this possible!

The main purpose of this missive is to “touch base” with you and share with you a small bit of our Paulist Center life. Last weekend, some folks associated with the annual family retreat got together virtually for prayer. Their prayers of the faithful, many offered by the youth, were the following:

- Protect our families;
- Help us find a vaccine;
- With schools closed, help the kids who don't have food at home get it:
- For all the people with corona;
- Those who take care of the sick;
- For my 92-year-old grandma;
- For all grandparents and the elderly and frail;
- For everyday losses and suffering, for the dying;
- For all students, for high school and college seniors who will miss their graduations;
- For those stuck in airports;
- For all to stay safe.;
- Help for our President;
- For people who depend on others to earn their money;
- For people and organizations that will be affected by the economic downturn;
- For people making hard decisions;
- For those who minister at the Paulist Center;
- For all our families, that we may be patient and kind with one another;
- For those who have no one to pray for them, those without families who are alone and isolated.

What would you add? Please join your fellow community members in these intercessions.

Well, what can I do in lieu of Sunday Mass?

1. Consult the Paulist Fathers' omnibus website page <<http://paulist.org/WatchMass>>;
2. The publishers of **Give Us This Day**, with its meditations and Sunday and Weekday Scripture readings, are offering the web edition of Give Us This Day at no charge. Visit <giveusthisday.org> and select "Digital" in the upper right of the screen. While it is not a replacement for community worship, this resource will support you during this challenging time. Please share this resource with friends and family.
3. Similarly, **Magnificat** (<https://us.magnificat.net/>) is offering the same: "During this challenging time, many of the faithful may be unable to attend Mass. Magnificat is honored to provide complimentary access to our online version to help people pray from home."

We are exploring ways of creating some "virtual gatherings" for prayer. Stay tuned...

I conclude with the wise words of St. Teresa of Avila:

Nothing can trouble,

nothing can frighten.

Those who seek God shall

never go wanting.

Nothing can trouble,

nothing can frighten.

God alone fills us.

And let us pray for/with one another.

Michael

Michael McGarry, C.S.P.

Director, the Paulist Center

Along with Patty, Chuck, Susan, Peter, Kristin, Dorothy, Alvaro, Barbara, Rob, Sal, and Chris.

Please feel free to call upon your Pastoral Ministers if you wish.

I will be sending out something every Thursday or Friday as the “shut down” continues.

<https://bustedhalo.com/ministry-resources/keeping-the-faith-during-the-time-of-coronavirus>

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