



Embracing God's People • Equipping Disciples • Accompanying Believers

May 23, 2020

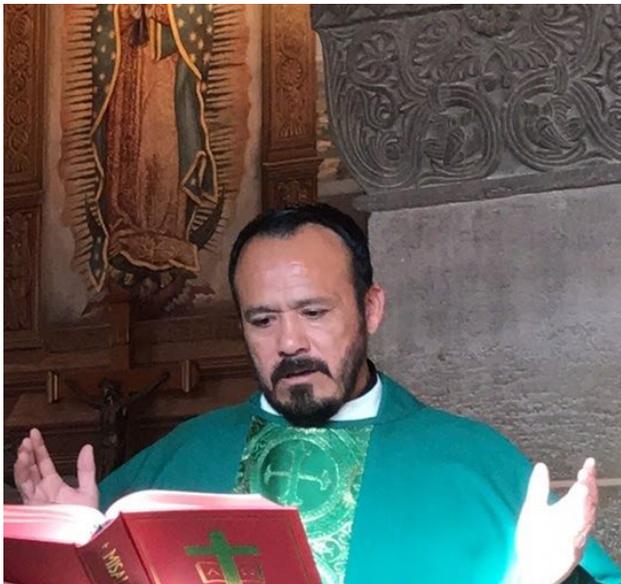
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

These past few days have seen lots of movement related to our COVID-related “safer at home” orders. I will address some of the fallout from those developments a little later, but I do want to press ahead and share some important news with you all.

Transition News

I received a phone call, and a subsequent letter, from the Vicar for Clergy at the Archdiocese two weeks ago. I was informed that the Archbishop has assigned a soon-to-be “newly ordained” priest to serve as Associate Pastor here at Our Lady of Lourdes, effective September 1. While this is wonderful news in itself, it is also the occasion of some sadness as it entails a new assignment for Fr. Dan, which is yet to be discerned.

We are all, of course, very grateful to Fr. Dan for the contribution he has made to our parish community over the past four years, and we look forward to the opportunity to celebrate that with him in the not-too-distant future when social-distancing requirements are less restrictive than they currently are.



The soon-to-be ordained priest is a member of the transitional diaconate class at St. John's Seminary. His name is Filiberto Cortez, and all I can really share with you is that his home parish is St. Dominic Savio in Bellflower. Upon receipt of his new assignment from the Archbishop he reached out to me to share his gratitude and excitement upon learning that our parish community is to be his first assignment as a priest.

It has been some time since Our Lady of Lourdes has had a “newly ordained”, and it is both a sign of trust on the part of the Archbishop, and a significant responsibility for our community. I'm sure we will rise to the occasion and be both welcoming and gracious in this formative assignment for Deacon Filiberto.

Financial Update

	Sundays	Faith Direct	Total
Jan	\$70,911.41	\$9,760.69	\$80,672.10
Feb	\$71,807.47	\$20,090.77	\$91,898.24
Mar	\$44,261.27	\$22,406.77	\$66,668.04
Apr	\$29,588.21	\$28,471.05	\$58,059.26

Quite a few parishioners have been asking me how we are doing financially in the midst of the COVID shut-down, and this past week I was able to review numbers for the month of April. I thought I might share this information with you all, so that you can be aware. Obviously, the income we receive is predominantly from our Sunday

collections. Our Sunday collection includes envelopes and cash dropped into the basket at mass. Our total collection also includes those contributions parishioners make electronically using our online giving platform, FaithDirect. You can see from the monthly total column how we're doing. January and February were on track, averaging a collection of about \$71,000. But with the first "socially distant" mass on March 16th, you can see there was a marked drop-off of about 38% on the average Sunday collection. The drop-off for April's Sunday collection was 68%. April was the first full month without public masses. We did have a slight increase in the number of people making electronic contributions. However, overall the numbers show an overall decline of just over 33% in April. If we compare April 2020 with April 2019, the decline is 54%, in large part because we had no public mass on Easter Sunday this year.

I am very grateful for those who have made the extra effort to show their support for the parish and our ministries in these difficult and trying times.



I've shared in previous letters the considerable ways in which the ministries and work of our parish continues, even with the suspension of public masses. Our entire

ministry staff have found ways to continue Religious Education, RCIA, Youth Ministry, and a whole array of activities we would never have considered possible without being face to face. Our ministry staff and our office administrative staff have been outstanding in their efforts throughout these past couple of months, and I invite you to join me in sharing your thoughts with them. I know a good number of people have written notes and cards, but if you'd like to email, please feel free to do so by contacting parishcenter@ollnr.org.

If you haven't already done so, and you are disposed to sign up for electronic giving, I encourage you to do so on our [website](#). If you'd rather consider a one-time donation from your smart-phone, you can use the information on the button here.

The Path Home for OLL

Thankfully, even as I write and am hyper-aware of my frustrations waiting for the day we can all gather together again for worship, there are developments unfolding. State and local authorities have been working with Church leaders to find a path to safely reopen our church buildings, and that work seems to be coming to a head at this time. The California Bishops have been working with other Church leaders at the State level, and the Archdiocese has been also working in tandem with the relevant County and City health authorities. It appears that some announcements are imminent. This can only be good news.

That said, I don't want people to get overly impatient as we transition. It will take time to reopen for public worship in a way that prioritises the health and well-being of our people. That has been, and remains, our overarching concern. I anticipate the formation of a broad group of people, professionals in their respective fields, to help us prepare for and move toward the reopening of our Church for public mass in the hopefully not-too-distant future. Our priority of care will guide our steps in our eventual reopening. As I've said publicly many times, I, along with the other priests, am eager to return to full public celebration of the sacraments, but I am also mindful that sacraments are for the living... so life and health will always be our priority. Our team will help us to be fully prepared to move on reopening in a safe and structured way.

A number of parishioners have been sharing their thoughts and insights with respect to how we can safely gather in our Church for mass, and I am grateful for that. The considerations are not insignificant, but I have every confidence that our preparations and our efforts will bear good fruit for a safe return to the sacramental life of our Church which is so essential for so many of us.

Archbishop Gomez just released a video and a statement this morning on this topic of reopening and our preparations for it. You can view it on the [Archdiocesan website](#).

Finally, please continue to hold one another in prayer. I would ask your prayers for a special intention of my own, as well as for the intentions of Msgr. Peter, Fr. Jerry and Fr. Dan. We continue to pray for you all every day, and hold you before the Father, commending you to His care and his loving providence. All the while, we long to see you once more sitting in our pews, joining together in public prayer and worship.

Have a wonderful Memorial Day Weekend, and continue to enjoy the blessings of the Easter Season.

Fr. David

SEE notes below

Remote Office Hours

Staff continue to work remotely this week. Anyone calling during regular office hours is likely to receive a call-back pretty quickly. Email inquiries continue to be addressed promptly: parishcenter at ollnr.org

Emergency calls: During office hours (Mon-Fri, 8:30am-6pm), call the parish at (818) 349-1500 and your call will be returned quickly. Outside those hours, in the case of imminent death, select option “0” to be connected to the priest “on duty”.

Worship Schedule @ Lourdes

Monday through Saturday	Mass @ 8:30am
Sunday	Mass @ 8:30am & 10:30am
Celebrations of the Holy Mass can be accessed by clicking https://zoom.us/j/806182515?pwd=cUhsZHpDTjRoNkdsSThFWnBEZXozdz09 Meeting ID: 806 182 515 Password: 002497 When joining the ZOOM meeting, please mute your microphones and turn off your cameras . The “Church” will be opened 10 minutes before the service begins. If you log in earlier, you will be placed in a “waiting room.”	
Domingo (En Español)	Missa @ 1:30pm
Santa Misa en español https://zoom.us/j/450000400?pwd=dIY0WTN0R1pZMU0raFh20TNrdmxsdz09 Meeting ID: 450 000 400 Password: 018715	
Divine Mercy Chaplet (daily at 3pm) https://us04web.zoom.us/j/905598741?pwd=cHc3UIVULzE1VHhyWVFQTIBrV3I5Zz09 Meeting ID: 905 598 741 Password: 008708	
Sunday Night Prayer & Benediction - 8:30pm https://zoom.us/j/93382953637?pwd=Vzl3K1h0MDIzNVlwN0ZqUWxENXFiQT09 Meeting ID: 933 8295 3637 Password: 023605	
Additional masses are celebrated and live-streamed across the Archdiocese of Los Angeles http://www.olacathedral.org/live/ or https://lacatholics.org/mass-for-the-homebound/	