

March 27, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is a time of great challenge in our world. My prayers are with you and your family as we deal with these uncertain times. We especially pray for those who are personally impacted by the spread of COVID-19 and for all those who are providing care and helping to reduce the risk.

While we are all facing difficulties as a result of this global health emergency, I am encouraged to see so many people reaching out in support of our families, our neighbors and our parishes.

Due to the suspension of Masses, which was necessary to protect the health and safety of our community, our parishes now face increased risks of financial shortfalls and may struggle to pay bills and provide services. Many parishioners throughout our Diocese have already recognized the impact of the Coronavirus crisis and have committed to give what they can to support their parishes. Thank you for your kind generosity.

I certainly understand the financial challenges all of our families are facing and recognize that not everyone will be able to support their parish as they would like at this time. If you are in a position to do so, I would ask you to consider doing whatever you can for your parish so that it can remain strong in service to you and your family and all of our parishioners.

You may give to your parish by mailing your weekly offering or by giving online if your parish has an online giving opportunity. If your parish does not currently have online giving, to make it easier for you to keep up with your weekly parish offering, the Diocese has added a new online giving opportunity at www.dioceseofscranton.org/supportyourparish to provide you with another way to make a gift that will go directly to your parish. Our parishes are at the center of our faith life and your support is deeply appreciated by your pastor and by me.

In this special year of Saint Joseph in our Diocese, may we seek his powerful intercession to safely guard the Church from all evils, just as he protected the Holy Family from harm. Saint Joseph, our guide and patron, pray for us.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton