Dear Friend,

The health crisis continues to evolve, and we are all profoundly affected by its impact, not just on our small community, but also around the globe.

It is in difficult times like these that we need each other the most, and I have heard wonderful stories of parishioners being shining examples of God’s light in our community. Many of you know Andrew Budris, a teacher at the high school. He has posted on Facebook that he is available to run errands, wait on lines and help those neighbors in high risk groups during this crisis. He has also asked others to do the same. Andrew is an example of how we are called to live the words of our Lord, “love one another as I have loved you.”

As this week progresses and we face the upcoming weekend without gathering together to celebrate the Eucharist, we can attend Mass as a parish family through television or the internet. I am exploring ways to stream Sunday, and eventually, daily Mass, online from our own Church, and hopefully we will have this in place for the weekend Liturgy. If this isn’t possible, I invite all of you to watch Mass on television (Optimum channel 29) or view the Mass online by visiting drvc.org. As another option, Bishop Robert Baron from ‘Word on Fire’ Catholic ministries, is streaming daily Mass for all on their website, <https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/>.

If you are able, I encourage you to continue your weekly offering to the parish by *mailing* in your envelopes. The vast majority of expenses continue whether or not we have a weekly collection, and the solvency of the parish, as well as those who provide the parish with needed services, depends upon the support of all of us. Another option for sending in your donation is to explore whether your bank offers a ‘BillPay’ option. You can set up a regular payment, and your bank generates an electronic check and sends it via the post office. Banks usually don’t charge for this, and it even covers the postage! This may be a good time for you to begin using electronic online giving if you haven’t already. Visit our website at miparish.net and click on “Giving” to make a one-time gift or set up your weekly contribution or use this link

We are facing uncertainty which can leave us anxious and fearful, but let us remember that even with ‘social distancing’ and ‘sheltering in place’, we are all still part of our parish family of Mary Immaculate and members of the Church. By holding this in our hearts, then we will also hold onto the peace that the world cannot give – the peace of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I will pray for all of you, and ask that you keep me in your prayers as well.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr. Bill*