

April 1, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you are all well during this time of crisis and uncertainty. As we are approaching Holy Week and Easter, I want to pass along to you the latest directive from Bishop Scharfenberger, our Apostolic Administrator regarding Palm Sunday:

“...We must make every effort to discourage people from congregating – even in small numbers at parishes. There are also risks in making palm available on tables in church vestibules, given the likelihood that they would be handled by many individuals coming and going. AS SUCH, I ASK YOUR COOPERATION TO PREVENT ANY RISK OF THIS KIND AND REFRAIN FROM DISTRIBUTING PALMS AT THIS TIME.”

I know that this is very disappointing given that palms are an integral part of our Christian tradition on this special Sunday. But we do need to make public safety the top priority now and for the foreseeable future. We also need to remember that Our Lord is with us, even in the worst of times. I believe that Jesus is giving as a share in His own suffering and death with all of this. My prayer is that it will serve to give us all a deeper appreciation for what He sacrificed for us so that we may live. Perhaps that is why this is happening during Lent and Holy Week. We can think of it as the proverbial “silver lining” in the proverbial “dark cloud”.

Once again, you can go to the resource page on the Diocesan website at:

<https://www.buffalodiocese.org/livestream> to watch Mass from those parishes who can offer the livestream service. I continue to say Mass each day privately, and rest assured that your Mass intentions are being honored.

Let us all continue to pray for one another as well as those who are ill and those who care for and minister to them. I look forward to the day when we can all come together in praise and worship as a community of faith. Then together we can “SING A NEW SONG UNTO THE LORD”!

Happy Easter and God bless you all,

Fr. Karl