

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace to your hearts and to your families and to your homes!

The coronavirus has made a mess of our lives. Just when we thought that it was safe to come out and play and pray, there seems to be a rise in cases of the Covid-19. Medical experts are saying that there is a strong chance that there will be a second wave. I pray that this is not so.

In the meantime, I have explained that I would be able to accommodate more parishioners in the Activity Center than I am able to accommodate parishioners in the Church. And so, for 3 weekends we have gathered as a faith community in the Activity Center. I may have given hope to some parishioners that we would return to the Church this coming weekend (July 4-5, 2020). Since it is a holiday weekend, I am not sure whether the numbers might increase this weekend due to visitors making it a wise decision to remain in the Activity Center. On the other hand, there could be a number of parishioners leaving the area to celebrate the 4th of July weekend which means that the numbers could be about the same that we have experienced the past 3 weekends. All the 3 weekends have seen numbers that are low enough that we could move to the Church and to be able to abide to social distancing.

So, not knowing what the future holds, I have decided to remain in the Activity Center for this weekend of July 4-5, 2020 or longer if necessary.

I, too, would rather celebrate Mass in the Church but I do not want to have to turn away Parishioners or begin to have Parishioners call to make reservations to come to Mass. I realize that that is what is happening in other Parishes but since we have the Activity Center which can accommodate more Parishioners, I would rather utilize the Activity Center. Fortunately, the Bishop has authorized the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in the Activity Center so the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in the Activity Center provides us with a prayerful atmosphere.

In the meantime, I pray that this pandemic will be over soon and that a vaccine will be found that will assist us in returning back to some aspect of “normal”.

In the meantime, I pray that the Lord will bless you and keep you always lovingly in the Palm of His Hand.

Prayerfully yours in Christ and His Blessed Mother,

Fr. Anthony Francis

Fr. Anthony Francis, OFMConv.

Pastor