



March 23rd, 2020

Dear OLPH Faithful,

Padre here... peace be with you. What a week! Don't lose hope. In the midst of these uncertainties, it is my prayer that you find the opportunity to be with your family (a good) and are reinforcing your life of prayer (for a greater good). The Lord is always with us.

I want to share with you five important topics:

First of all, I would like to share with you that on Friday March 13th, I went in for surgery (Ouch!) I knew before hand that it will be a complicated surgery but like always, I was placing my life in God's hands so I went with peaceful confidence. The difficulty of the surgery came when I woke up from the anesthesia and found out that the Holy Mass will not be celebrated in public around the entire diocese. Oh no! was my first reaction (as well as probably yours). That is more painful than any surgery. However, in an effort to protect all our parishioners especially those with weak immune systems, the diocesan suspension makes sense. Back to the topic, although the surgery went well, the recovery time as you are aware, is always more difficult than the surgery itself. Then, a question came into my mind: As your OLPH spiritual father, how can I share my recovery suffering with your suffering for not having the opportunity to attend Holy Mass? The answer was simple, I decided not to take any of the "pain killer pills" and offer it up any kind of pain, to your pain of not attending Holy Mass. This was an excellent opportunity to practice what I preach don't you think? Right now, I am in the second week of my post-surgery recovery and, thanks be to God, I am doing fine. I already had the opportunity to say private Mass and many prayers on behalf of your families. I believe that if everything goes as God's will, soon I will be back to the office. Yay! In the meantime, I would like to thank Fr. Christopher, Fr. Mario, Fr. Terry, school leadership team led by Mrs. Lucero, school teachers, aides, parish leadership team and volunteers for their leadership in keeping our families motivated in this time of uncertainty during my absence. Kudos to all of you!

Second, we at OLPH have missed you all greatly; your presence, conversations, devotions and smiles. For some of you, it is the first time that you have not been able to attend Holy Mass and believe us, we share your pain. We share your pain for not having the opportunity to worship Our Lord in the Eucharist. There is no doubt that this is a special Lent - we are truly fasting from Our Lord Jesus Christ. On the other hand, it is a good opportunity to slow down our busy lives and read the signs of the times. How is my family in relation to the Lord? How do I fruitfully use this time to get closer to the Lord? Fasting from Our Lord should be a good opportunity for all of us to appreciate Him more because many times we take Him for granted. Without the Eucharist, there is no grace, and without grace, there is no life within us. May we all renew our love for the Lord.

Third, as we move forward, I would like to invite you to be part of our OLPH family in a more committed way for the reinvigoration of our parish. You already experienced how we have

suffered by not having the opportunity to be at Holy Mass with Him. If you are not involved in any parish ministry, I would like to invite you to become a volunteer and help us to bring souls back to Christ and help our parishioners in need. We have been created for communion with the Lord. When you volunteer for your parish, not only do you change the lives of others for the better, but your life can change for the better. With your involvement, we can better serve our OLPH family of faith and I promise that the Lord will infuse many graces in you. Please pray about how you can volunteer at our parish.

Fourth, in terms of finances, some of our parishioners are very concerned about us covering the basic needs of our parish. Our parishioners are known by their generosity. Being administrators of their houses, some of them have asked us: Padre, how can we support economically our parish during this period of uncertainty? There are no Masses, there are no collections, there is no income. First, I would like to thank you for your generosity. Yes, as any other non-profit organization, we depend on your economical help. The best way you can continue to help us is by dropping your envelope at our parish office (please call first in advance at 623.939.9785) or in a better way, enroll in our online giving program called: *Faith Direct* by clicking on the following link and make your donation. It is a very simple way to keep supporting the parish basic needs. You can make your contribution here and we thank you in advance: <http://olphglendale.com/faith-direct>.

Fifth, during this time of seclusion, I would like to remind you that we have a great gift for your family. The parish has purchased a subscription with FORMED (www.formed.org) for your household spiritual growth and it is free of charge for you or any of your family members. FORMED is a program that has excellent formation videos, audios, and books and the best of all this material is ready for your enjoyment free of charge. It has material for kids, teens as well as material for you. To access formed, visit www.formed.org, and in the upper right, click on the "Sign Up" button. From there you will have 3 choices. Choose "I belong to a parish or organization" tab, then look for our parish by typing in the field: "Our Lady of Perpetual Help Glendale" Click on the OLPH name that has this address: 5614 W. Oranewood Avenue Glendale AZ. Then continue to create a new account and you are all set. I personally recommend for you to watch along with your family the series entitled "Divine Mercy with Fr. Michael Gaitley." Also anything related to Our Lady of Fatima is a plus.

In this time of uncertainty, be ready and prepare for the long haul. This isolation will not be solved immediately. As a recommendation, if you are in good health, this is a good opportunity to do fasting. We are organizing better ways to help you and more directions will come in the near future. In the meantime, let's take a pause, find reasonable solutions to current needs and let us help each other knowing that God is always with us. Again, if you need something that we can assist you with, let us know, and if it is possible, we will gladly help you. We love you, we need you and thank you for allowing us be part of your spiritual journey to a holy life. Together we will reach Heaven. Let us rejuvenate our parish with renewed faith and entrust our lives to the maternal love of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us!

Padre Ernesto Reynoso, JCL