

### **A Reflection for Today by Fr. Kris**

It has been a while since I wrote a reflection, but we have decided not to overwhelm you with everyday emails and flocknotes. I am glad, though, that our deacons, priests and staff have stepped in and wrote wonderful reflections that may help some of us bring some comfort in these difficult days, and also let you know what is happening around here at your parish.

We do continue to say private daily Masses, and we pray for you and for the intentions you send to us. I want you to know that all the prayer requests and intentions that we are receiving either by mail, by e-mail, text messages, and those you drop by the Church or the rectory are fulfilled.

You keep asking about our safety, health and generally how we are doing, and I really appreciate your concern and care. We are doing just fine. Fr. Ray is healthy and happy (I think). I continue bringing him his newspapers every morning and sometimes listen to his complaints, but he knows that being stuck at the rectory with me is a blessing for him; it could always be worse. Fr. Marcin is doing fine; I see him occasionally at the Parish Office or in the Church. We are in constant touch with the parish and school staff by phone conversations, or by video conferences and e-mails. Even now, we want to be supportive of one another and make sure we are on the same page regarding making all kinds of decisions.

These flocknotes are very new to me, but I cannot tell you how many positive responses we receive from you, our parishioners, and that they are so helpful and informative. This is mainly how we want to stay in touch with as many of you as possible. For sure, no one was prepared for times like these, and after this is over we really need to update our database and get all of your emails, phone numbers and addresses so we can be able to reach out to most of our parishioners. We made personal phone calls to some of you. I have talked to many of you over the phone and all the contact info I found in the parish directory was printed I think over 10 years ago. As you can imagine, many phone numbers from that directory no longer exist, or people have moved to another place, so I could not reach you. But I was so happy to be able to talk to some of you and hear that you are ok and healthy.

I want to thank you for all your Sunday and Easter offerings. Even in this difficult time when your own Church remains closed, you continue to be so supportive. As I said before, even though we cannot worship together and pass the collection basket through the Church pews, we still have bills to pay and other expenses to cover. That's why I want you to know that I am so very grateful for your thinking about your Church and for all of your donations that we keep receiving. I really believe that this lockdown won't last much longer, and we will be able to come back to our routines and visit our parish and the Church.

I am also very touched by all the letters that I receive from you. They come mainly through e-mails but also in regular mail. You should see my desk. It is covered with cards, letters, Easter wishes, good words and handmade cards from many of our school students bringing me a lot of peace and comfort. I know you are praying for me and the other priests, that you miss us and know that we, as a parish, are still ministering to you in a way that brings some sense of peace to your homes too. I can promise you that we will continue praying for you, saying Masses for you, writing to you and letting you know what is happening here with us.

Also, please don't hesitate to send me, or anyone else from our staff, an e-mail if you have a prayer request, or if you have any questions regarding situations like funerals, weddings, baptisms and other things that may be happening in your life and you would like to talk with a priest or deacon about them.

We are all in this together. Nobody was prepared for this, so we may not have all the answers, but it is always good to talk and share our ideas with each other.

God bless you!

Fr. Kris

*P.S. **EMAIL SCAMS:** If anyone has received an email from me asking for something, do not respond. It is a scam. It is unfortunate that during this time, there are still hackers trying to con people. Stay safe!*