

## **Homebound friends...**

Sometimes we don't realize, or we just forget, that in our parish and neighborhood there are many homebound people, those who for some kind of illness or old age can't leave their homes and go to the store, to Church, or to visit with their family and friends. Sometimes they can't even go to their backyard on a sunny, warm day. My heart and my prayers go out to them today when I feel homebound too.

We don't realize how difficult this condition is until we experience something similar. And unfortunately, in these days of a scary pandemic roaming through our cities and countries, many of us can't leave our homes. So, we can relate to those who live like this each day of their lives, depending on the help of others.

But the difference is that we will get through these difficult days and we will go back to our routines, to our schools, and places of work. We will be able to go to Church and be with our fellow parishioners, family members and friends. But for those who are older or ill and can't leave their houses, little hope remains for they still will have to remain in their homes, waiting and praying for us and looking forward to a visit, to a phone conversation, or to have someone be there with them for a moment.

God is giving us another lesson. He wants us to think about these lonely people since we can now relate to them. We all can associate with their sadness now because we are suddenly in equal straits - young and old, poor and rich, full of energy and ill, despite the color of our skin or nationality or the language we speak - we can all feel like those who are homebound.

I want to thank all of those who take care of homebound friends on a regular basis. May God reward those who bring Holy Communion to them, to those who bring them a warm meal, those who shovel the snow for them or mow a lawn, to those who make phone calls to them or stop by to ask them how they are doing.

I hope this difficult time will teach us something important. When the virus is over and we who are well and healthy return to our daily tasks, please, never forget about our friends, neighbors and parishioners who have to stay home.

Fr. Kris