May 22, 2020

Dear Parishioners, Donors and Stakeholders,

May the Lord give you Peace!

The current situation with the Covid-19 pandemic has uprooted all of our lives. St. Boniface Church sadly had to close its doors to those wanting spiritual nourishment and just a place to rest and be with the Lord. But I want you to know that the friars that live here in community are praying for all of you and your loved ones for your health, safety and needs.

This current pandemic has disrupted our lives in ways we couldn’t conceive of just a few months ago. There is fear of catching the virus, concern about our jobs, getting food, and sheltering in place. This is the time to rely on God’s providential care and love. It can be difficult to do so when the world seems a turbulent and scary place right now, however we need to remember we are a people of Hope. Hope in God’s care for us and that our state will improve.

Currently the shelter in place order is still in effect until the end of May, that could always change or be extended. During this time, I would encourage you to still keep the Lord’s Day holy and watch a Mass on television, the internet, or listen on the radio, whatever means you find works best for you. For instance, I watched the Holy Father say the Easter mass from the Vatican over the internet.

I would like to discuss a few things regarding our church. Since the church has been closed Br. Raul has been cleaning and sanitizing the church for when we are able to reopen, thank you Br. Raul. The Gubbio Project has ceased operations until further notice. DeMarillac Academy has also been closed. The scaffolding is still up, but the work will not resume until August. Our financial situation is dire. With no income coming in we are expending the cash we have. BUT I want to thank those of you who have sent checks into the office, every bit helps (you can also donate to the church through our website). The employees have been sheltering in place at home and being paid; and I am still here working in the office Monday-Friday. The good news is the parish office will be open beginning May 26th, with the normal hours of operation Monday-Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. We will require that everyone wears a mask and keep social distancing of at least 6 feet. However, I would encourage you to continue using the phone or email to contact those at the church office if you do not need to see someone in person as the shelter in place order is still in effect.

Once the church does reopen, I am sure there will be changes on how Mass and community activities can take place. I think social distancing will still be required, so we will have to figure that out (I am sure the Archdiocese will give us guidance regarding this). Mass may be the only activity that can take place for a while, which means no socialization before or after mass, and no group meetings. We will also need to look at the choirs, how they can still provide sacred music yet not be close together, maybe just one musician. Also, we will most likely only provide one species for Eucharist, the body of our Lord (the bread) in the hand. I am sure there will be more changes and I ask for your patience and understanding, as we will not be back to “normal” once the church is reopened, but hopefully we will get there sooner than later.

Peace and All Good!

Br. Brian Trawick, OFM
Parish Manager – St. Boniface Church