



DIOCESE OF ST. CATHARINES

P.O. Box 875
St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada
L2R 6Z4

THE CHANCERY

905-684-0154
Fax: 905-684-2185

MEMO

To: All Pastors/Parishes in the Diocese of St. Catharines

From: Most Reverend Gerard Bergie

Date: March 24, 2020

Re: COVID-19

As we continue to be inundated with information about the Coronavirus, it is easy to become overwhelmed with a sense of foreboding. What is known and unknown can fill us with fear and anxiety. That is why prayer is so important. When we turn to God, it becomes much easier to have hope. With this in mind, I am asking all of us to join in prayer, asking for Divine assistance.

Tomorrow, March 25th, is the Feast of the Annunciation. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and asked if she would be the Mother of God. Despite great uncertainty, and possibly even some trepidation, Our Lady said yes to the angel, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

At this present moment, we may have some of the same feelings as we are uncertain of what the Lord may be asking of us. Like Our Blessed Mother, we should respond with faith not fear. We need to pray to her, imploring her prayers and protection.

I am asking all the clergy and laity to join with me on the Feast of the Annunciation, to pray the Rosary at twelve noon. Let our intention be protection from the coronavirus, recovery for the sick, and protection and strength for all health care givers. This will be live streamed from our Cathedral and you can access the link on either the Diocesan website or the Cathedral's website. Please make this known to your parishioners where possible.

I also wish to remind you that seven years ago, on the Feast of St. Catherine of Alexandria, in our Cathedral, I consecrated our diocese to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I will be renewing this consecration tomorrow, after the Rosary. I have included a copy of the prayer for your information.

It is not only scientists and researchers that can help to end this pandemic. We can also help with our prayers. That is a powerful faith response to a situation that can quickly cause us to feel helpless.

I continue to assure you of my prayers as we face this significant challenge together in faith. May God bless you.

St. Catherine of Alexandria, pray for us!
Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!
Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

CATHOLIC CENTRE: 3400 Merrittville Highway, Thorold, Ontario

www.saintcd.com

email: chancery@saintcd.com