

From the Desk of Fr. Frank Grieco
May 21, 2020

Dear Friends!

My last letter I sent to you was dated March 25, 2020. Please read each paragraph carefully.

1

At the time I sent the last letter, I thought for sure the Church would have been reopened by now. This is just very sad and frustrating. However, I do want to make it clear that not having Mass is NOT our decision, but the decision of the Governor of New York State. It is my opinion, and my opinion only, that we should be allowed to reopen the Churches under reasonable directives. I agreed with the Governor at first, but now it is time for **churches** and **businesses** to reopen. Please understand that people's livelihoods are at stake. And, we need God in our lives!

2

- A) Please visit our website on a regular basis for up-to-date information, and share our website with others. Website: HolySpiritNHP.com
- B) Please send your email address to Lauren and Monica, whether we have it or not. We want to get a head start on a new census.
Lauren: lpetricca@holyspiritli.org
Monica: mgannon@holyspiritli.org

3

As I mentioned last time, the Sunday collections are our only source of income, and although many of you have been MORE THAN generous, we are about 30% behind of what we usually collect during this 9-week pandemic. Actually, if we consider the Family Festival, we can add another \$43,000 loss.

If you have been generous, and many of you have, we are **NOT** asking for anything more. However, in your heart, if you think you have not been as generous as possible, we would ask you to consider giving more. For those whom have not yet given, please understand that we have a responsibility to support our Church.

4

When we do reopen, and this is another reason why we need your email address, we will have directives and guidelines from New York State and the Diocese of Rockville Centre. These directives may make things challenging for us, but it will be a step in the right direction. We will need your cooperation and patience. As soon as we have permission you will hear from us by

email (so please make sure we have your email) and/or U.S. mail, so you will be aware of the guidelines in place when we reopen. This information will also be posted on our website (www.holyspiritNHP.com) as soon as this information is available, so please be sure to check the website as well.

5

One of the several lessons I have learned from this pandemic is not to take things for granted. Our lives have changed so much. All the things we have taken for granted: seeing friends, going to the store, school or work, driving to the bank or cleaners, going out to dinner, getting a haircut, and the list goes on...these were all simple things we used to do which now require much effort and patience.

How about church? In a million years, I never thought we would have to close the Church. When I learned about liturgy, I was taught that the Mass is so important that the priest would have an obligation to finish Mass, even if there was a fire in the Church (the people would be allowed to leave, but not the priest). Now, we are not even allowed to go to Church. It is my hope that we have all gained an appreciation of all these important things in our lives that we have all taken for granted. Please continue to pray hard that the churches will be allowed to reopen soon!

6

Please make time for God. There is daily Mass on television at least three times per day and there are unlimited wonderful Catholic websites. One of my favorites is anything Bishop Robert Barron does (google him).

7

“Our hearts are restless, until they rest in you O God”
(St. Augustine 354-430)

8

Pentecost Sunday is May 31st.

9

Prayer is a very serious thing and I want to assure you that I am praying for all of you. In return, I ask that you also pray for our parish and all our parishioners. Remember also, that when we pray to our Blessed Mother, she is praying for us; “Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen”! It is my prayer that I see you all soon at Mass.