

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

We are still journeying with our Lord to His Passion, Death and Resurrection!!! Many of us can feel, in a very personal way the cry of anguish from our Lord Himself, when He cries: "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me"!!! We have questions about these times, and our faith. In these times of crisis, God is nearest to us, as the Good Shepherd, but still the questions, and sometimes doubt remains! "Where is God in all of this?" We have to listen to the Gospel of the FIRST Sunday of Lent where the devil tempted Our Lord to throw Himself down from the parapet of the Temple to force His Father to save Him! Our Lord responded: "you shall not tempt the Lord, your God". He DID NOT throw Himself down just to "prove" His faith!!! Prudence is the "Mother" of all virtues and the first of the infused moral virtues! I trust our Bishop to best keep the flock safe, as shepherd of whom Our Lord said "the one who listens to you listens to me, but the one who rejects you rejects not only me, but the one who sent me"! That is the Church's faith!!! Our Heavenly Father NEVER does violence to us to receive His goodness; and does not require us to needlessly harm ourselves or others to receive the fullness of His grace!!! Please trust our Bishop too!!! He loves us and is always praying for us; and keeping us in his daily Mass intentions!!!

Plus, when I am celebrating the private Mass daily during this time "in persona Christi" for you, my parishioners per our Bishop's instructions, our Heavenly Father is accepting that Sacrifice and dispensing all of the graces to YOU as if you were there receiving the fruit of the Sacrifice, the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of the Son of God; because He perfects His strength in our weakness and the Mass is ALWAYS efficacious!!! ALWAYS! Even when offered privately!!!

So pray the prayer for Spiritual Communion our Bishop offers and we will be fine!

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,

Come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there

And unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen.

In his letter to the faithful of the Archdiocese of Detroit, Archbishop Allen Vigneron, our Metropolitan, suggested this prayer as a model

to make a spiritual communion)

Our Lord promised us that our Heavenly Father knows what we need before we ask, so He knew before the Bishop asked for this and opened the channels of grace to provide for all of our spiritual needs in this time of crisis!

I know this is a time of hardship for all of us!!! It is at these times that Our Lord is closest to us if we but look for Him!

I will come to your homes for the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

I will hear confessions by appointment, whenever you need the Sacrament (we all need this healing sacrament!!!)

My cell phone # is (989) 701-4077

Your servant in Christ Jesus, Fr. Patrick Maher

And know THAT YOU ARE LOVED!!!