



Beloved Basilian Family,

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

With the ever-growing concern, world-wide and at home, regarding the coronavirus, I wanted to reach out to you and inform you of our response to this pandemic. First, let us remember the words of the Apostle Paul: For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). Secondly, let us exercise “wisdom”: For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 2:6).

Many churches, sports venues, political campaigns, etc. are suspending events until further notice. At our parishes, we care deeply about your spiritual edification and your physical safety. After much thought and prayer, we do not believe that, at this time, the Lord is directing us to suspend all of our liturgical services, or other scheduled events. Having said that, we are strongly urging everyone to be very cautious about their interactions with one another at our parishes, and to practice good hygiene (frequently washing your hands, covering your mouth when you cough, etc.). We strongly ask that if you are not feeling well to voluntarily self-isolate yourself and minimize your interactions with others.

There are few steps we have taken in order to reduce the chance of anyone contracting the coronavirus at our parishes: we are increasing our efforts cleaning our church buildings and we are discouraging parents from bringing sick children to church and asking that infants not receive Holy Communion if the parents cannot guarantee that the infant will “not lick the spoon.” We are also encouraging people during our “fellowship times” to not shake hands but rather to simply acknowledge one another with a greeting (God bless you), greeters at the door are to not distribute the bulletins, but greet people with smile and show them the way to bulletins and to the church. We are to adhere to the local Bishop’s guidelines which were carefully made with consideration of the health guidelines issued by the provincial health ministry. These steps will not safeguard us 100% against this virus but will reduce the risk. These guidelines are also subject to revision as the situation changes.

In addition, if you are sixty-years of age or older, especially if you have a condition which makes you more susceptible to the more severe symptoms of the virus, you may want to consider the possibility of not attending services for a couple of weeks, as reports suggest that elderly individuals may be most affected by the virus. Having said that, our pastors plan on being at every service to help and lead you at this trying moment. If you decide to stay home, please join Catholic TV and radio channels for the celebration of the Mass, recitation of the rosary, etc. and let’s offer our inconveniences at this time of Lent for the Souls in Purgatory, for the healing of those who are suffering from COVID-19 virus and for those who lost their lives from contracting this virus.

Let me leave you with four things we can all do during this time of uncertainty:

Pray – for God to aid scientists in discovering a vaccine quickly.

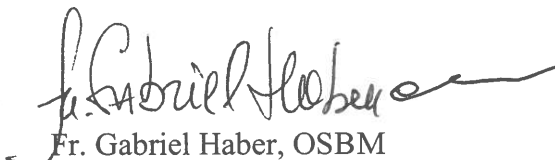
Witness—act as a witness of the church and demonstrate that we will not allow the coronavirus to quarantine our faith

Act responsibly. Respect the personal space of others and do not hesitate to enter self-isolation if you feel unwell.

Rest in God. (Jeremiah 33:6) Behold, I will bring health and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth.

Yours in Christ,




Fr. Gabriel Haber, OSBM

Provincial Superior



Fr. Zachary Shwaluk, OSBM

Provincial Secretary