



March 14, 2020

Dear Parishioners of the St. Francis Xavier Jesuit Faith Community,

As we gather for Mass this weekend, we are in a somewhat different world than we were in even just one-week ago. And, I suspect, we will be in an even different world by this time next week. One thing is for certain -- the Lenten season is a most appropriate time to reflect, discern and seek opportunities for calm.

We are fortunate that St. Francis Xavier Church is such a large building, so even though it may be considered a 'crowded place,' it also gives us ample personal space. **We will continue to gather faithfully for Mass.** I would urge you (*and I've never said this before*) to spread out around the available seating spaces in our church.

Through guidance from Bishop Olmsted we will temporarily discontinue Precious Blood. As your Pastor, I have directed Ministers of the Eucharist to offer reception of the Eucharist (Body of Christ/host) on the hand *ONLY*.

We've heard from the beginning that 'the elderly' are especially at risk. I don't know anyone of any age who actually thinks of themselves as 'elderly.' Therefore, it is helpful that the Centers for MORE...

Disease Control have suggested that “persons over 60 years-of-age” *who have been diagnosed with an illness or feel unwell*, should remain home as much as possible and stay out of crowds. I’m going to take this seriously and I invite you to do so as well.

In previous letters, I’ve shared how our parish and school leadership is thoughtfully monitoring all updates from the Diocese of Phoenix, Governor Ducey’s office, and other influential sources. Through careful review of this information, we will make prudent decisions and we will keep you consistently apprised. Remember, **we have suspended all ministry functions held at the Parish Center through March 22**; CGS classes will not meet next week based on Spring Break schedules. Further, we will discontinue all food service in Anderson Hall, including Knights of Columbus and Equipo programs, as well as, distribution of coffee and donuts, through March 22. We will reevaluate this decision and determine next steps later this week.

Our unity is seen in our being together; in Christ, we belong to one another. Let us care for one another in these stressful and confusing days.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Fambrini". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a period at the end.

Father Robert Fambrini, S.J., Pastor