

# Never Isolated in Christ

YOUR WEEKLY VIEW BEHIND THE MASK OF ASSUMPTION PARISH

MAY 11, 2020

*For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel:  
By waiting and by calm you shall be saved,  
in quiet and in trust shall be your strength.*

*Truly, the LORD is waiting to be gracious to you,  
truly, he shall rise to show you mercy;  
For the LORD is a God of justice:  
happy are all who wait for him!*

*-Isaiah 30:15, 18*

## Pastor's Note

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Dear Assumption Parishioners,

I have received incredible consolation over the last three weeks as I have driven around Bellingham to provide the Eucharist to our parishioners or as I have received different families on the back porch of the parish offices for Eucharistic visits. First and foremost, this is because people are receiving the sacraments, even in lockdown! Nothing will ever bring a priest more joy than knowing that his people are receiving and responding to the grace of Jesus Christ. Second, I have received great consolation just from visiting with many of you again, including some with whom I had not been able to visit previously. A diocesan priest is rooted in his community, and I feel like those roots have been watered anew.

But, maybe most profoundly of all, I have been consoled by hearing that, for many of you, this has been a time of spiritual growth. Intellectually, I know that the God who loves us endlessly never stops working for our good. But after the tenth or twentieth person told me that, in the last two months, they have grown closer to the Mass and more dedicated to prayer, I finally had to admit that maybe the work of Jesus is more than just theoretical. Maybe the Lord does, in fact, dwell with his people. Maybe the Lord, though never desiring that they should happen, does use the greatest tragedies to bring about the greatest goods.

Having seen the Lord work, my prayer now is that the fruits of this time of extended retreat will last. It is so easy for us to grow complacent, to forget the lessons that we have learned, and to backslide into old habits. We have, paradoxically, been given a great gift of grace during this COVID-19 crisis. Please pray with me that this grace will not have been in vain.

May the Lord, who is always at work in our lives, bless you and your families!

*F. Moore*

# Parish News

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## Drive-In Masses?

When Governor Inslee announced his four-phase plan to reopen Washington State, he included in Phase 1 the possibility of “drive-in spiritual services.” However, after reviewing the requirements for these services, our bishops have asked us to continue to focus on streaming Masses and spiritual communion.

The issue with the requirements are twofold: First, unless the cars are six feet apart from each other, all windows and sunroofs must remain closed. Second, nothing can be handed in or out of car windows (which includes, especially, the Eucharist). Given these two requirements, we gain very little by trying to do a parking lot Mass, and we risk the integrity, sacredness, and reverence of the Mass in the process.

To quote from Bishop Mueggeborg’s letter, *“The bishops of Washington are engaging with the governor’s office to request greater exercise of religion — especially the ability to gather (with appropriate safeguards) in the sacred space of the church. Please pray for the success of our efforts to secure a greater worship experience while preventing the spread of the coronavirus and protecting the common good.”*

## Fence

If you have driven by campus this week, you may have noticed that we are putting in a fence across the traffic loop. The idea for this fence came from discussions about the security of our school and especially of our students during recess. Most schools have a fully enclosed playground, but we do not. In response, Fr. Moore approved the construction of a fence which can be closed during the school day to prevent strangers, well-meaning or otherwise, from wandering through our campus.

Though this fence does give us the flexibility to close off the majority of our campus whenever we would like, the current plan is simply to close it during the school day (when students return next fall) and to keep it open otherwise.

## Looking for Content

If you would like to provide some content to help your fellow parishioners with ideas during lockdown, we are still looking for:

- Scenes from worshipping or praying at home
- Favorite Catholics podcasts / books during lockdown
- Favorite FORMED.ORG videos

## Other Topics

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### Hope House Re-Opening!

Hope House will be re-opening on May 18, with the new hours of **Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday**, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

If you would like to help, they are looking for:

- Laundry and Dish Detergent
- Diapers and Wipes
- Razors, Toothpaste, and Toothbrushes
- Canned and Boxed Food.

***Please no clothing or household items at this time.***

You can drop these items off **this Thursday** May 14<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Otherwise, please drop them off when Hope House is open. Anything left outside or in doorways has a tendency to disappear.

## Collecting R-90 Signatures

As we explained in last week's letter ([English](#) | | [Español](#)), the bishops of Washington State have encouraged us to collect signatures to get R-90 on the November ballot.

If you would like to provide a signature, you can do so at a station that will be set up in the Assumption parking lot. Beginning, Monday, May 11, volunteers will have petitions available **Monday – Friday, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** Volunteers will hand the petition through the car window. Please wear a mask when you approach the volunteer and bring your own pen.

## Worshipping at Home

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Today we have the King family preparing for Mass.

