2020 CFA Second Mailing

Dear (salutation),

It is my hope and prayer that this letter finds you well! Together we face the various effects of the COVID-19 on families, employment, and communities; it would be difficult to overstate how challenging these days are for all. You good Faithful had to adjust to the temporary suspension of Holy Mass and now resumption of Masses within certain limitations, while, regrettably, other Parish gatherings still cannot take place.

Conversely during the past months**, the emergence and exchanging of creative ideas and the utilization of modern virtual technology allowed the continuance of our spiritual journey**. Parishes reached out daily via live streaming of the Mass and to address the other spiritual and pastoral needs of the Faithful. Online learning became a daily routine for the students in our Catholic Schools. The Office of Evangelization offered live, interactive Bible study via social media. **Much was new for all of us!**

Although public Mass has been restored, the coronavirus continues to upend our lives even as we wait for the “new normal” to signal that the other side of this health and economic crisis has been reached.  In the meantime, the Church carries on her mission to minister to those in need through a **whole myriad of programs and outreach services because of your generosity** to the Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA).

The CFA reaches out to Parishes and Missions so that Faith communities may continue to be beacons of Christ’s hope. Catholic Schools and Parish Religious Education programs throughout the Diocese increase the understanding of our Catholic Faith, its truths and values, even though the means of delivery evolves as circumstances change.

In addition to the spiritual and educational aspects, the Diocese of Venice through its Catholic Charities, **continues to address the growing challenge of providing basic necessities** to individuals, families and communities in need. Catholic Charities amplified its presence in areas most impacted by the economic downturn during this Pandemic focusing on food, financial assistance, and tele-mental health counseling. This is in addition to the continuation of the everyday outreach programs such as **Mother’s House where mothers and their children are provided with a safe and caring environment.** While living at Our Mother’s Home, moms strive to achieve increased self-sufficiency through employment and furthering their education, whereas the children begin their basic education.

**Guess what? These efforts are only possible because of your support of the CFA**. I can appreciate that you too have suffered losses, but it is my hope that you will take a look at the enclosed brochure which describes many of the initiatives that are possible because of the Catholic Faith Appeal. If your means allow, please consider making a generous gift. This is not the standard tone of my letters, but **these times have been difficult for all of us but especially on the people we serve.**

Please accept my deepest gratitude for your kind consideration of the needs placed before you and as Scripture tells us, **“The generous will be blessed, for they share…with the poor**”(Proverbs 22:9), and your Bishop says this is especially true during this pandemic.

As we come to the end of the month dedicated to Mary, it is my hope to be even more united as a spiritual family which will help us overcome this time of trial. You and your loved ones are in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Frank J. Dewane

Bishop of the Diocese of

Venice in Florida

P.S. Please disregard this letter if you recently made your gift to the CFA. Your support is appreciated.