



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

RESPONDING JOYFULLY TO CHRIST'S CALL TO BECOME PEOPLE OF GOD

March 29, 2020

Dear Monsignor/Father,

I hope that this letter finds you well and pray that you remain so. Thank you for all you are doing now in this time of national crisis.

Saint Padre Pio envisioned his hospital in San Giovanni Rotondo as a place of science and prayer "where the human race united in the crucified Christ become one flock with one Shepherd." As we observe the valiant efforts of men and women of medicine and science using their dedication, skills and learning to confront the Coronavirus, we, too, must all do our part.

As Catholics, our part is not just isolating ourselves through social distancing, adapting and carrying on with the duties of our state in life. As Catholics, our part is also to unite ourselves in prayer for the sick, our nation, and the world.

I am asking each of our 96 parishes to take one day - one 24 hour period - beginning March 31 and running through Holy Saturday during which each hour, one or more of your parishioners *from home* will pray for an end to the pandemic, the healing of the sick, the salvation of the dead and the protection of healthcare workers and those who keep the necessities of life flowing in our nation and throughout the world.

This time of pandemic must also be a time of prayer. Circumstances prevent us from physically uniting around the altar to celebrate the sacraments but they do not prevent us from prayer. May our fervent prayer unite us as one flock under one Shepherd, the crucified and Risen Lord who is the hope of us all.

With every prayerful best wish I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester