



April 15, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we continue to navigate through these unprecedented times throughout the world and especially in our Church, please know that I continue to pray for you and your family. We all pray for those affected by this pandemic, especially the deceased, their loved ones, the sick, health workers, families at home, government leaders and those facing drastic reductions in income. These are challenging times for all of us, but I know that if we put our faith in the Lord, we will get through this. Perhaps one of the blessings of this pandemic is our increased awareness of how much we need God, the Church, the sacraments and each other to make our successful journey through life. There is certainly no shortage of faith, hope, and love in our diocese.

I also come to you at this time with a request, one that I do not make lightly, because I am certainly very aware that many people are experiencing financial straits themselves and may not be able to be as generous to their parish as in the past. This time is very stressful for many people, but at this time, your parish needs your support more than ever. Parishes across the diocese are seeing a marked decline in Sunday contributions due to social distancing requirements, but most parish expenses are staying the same. Not only do parishes need to keep their lights on and pay utilities but, they want to continue to pay their parish and school staff throughout this time. If you are able, I ask you to give to your parish in one of two ways – as always, you can **write a check and mail it to your parish**, or you can visit www.madisondiocese.org/parishgive; here you will see a list of all the parishes throughout the diocese listed with links to their online giving page. Simply click on the link on your parish name and make your gift. **These gifts will not come to the diocese, but will go directly to your parish, for your parish's needs.**

If we each do what we can, our parishes and schools will remain vital and flourishing communities of faith and action, even in this moment of struggle. God will always sustain us. Thank you for your continued support!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+Donald J. Hying
Bishop of Madison