

Dear Parishioners:

March 25 2020

I miss you! I didn't know how great we had it until it was gone. No routine now, no community events, and no Communion at Mass. At least we're all in this together.

Random acts of kindness mean even more than before. Lisa and Dominic Chambers brought their three sons Rimes, Sullivan and little Dominic on a walk to do sidewalk art at my Mom's house. Their colorful chalk message: "Mrs. Boly, They Didn't Cancel Love."

Today celebrates the Annunciation of the angel Gabriel to Mary. God invited a young woman to cooperate in a plan that would change everything. When Mary said yes, she set in motion the entry of God into the human family as one of us.

God in Jesus entered human life through a birth canal, cried for his first breath, was nursed for nourishment, endured swollen gums from teething, learned to crawl, then walk and talk. Like any other person, he faced the perils of sickness or accident – and the situation that eventually killed him: a lethal conflict of values. He was willing to risk all the vulnerabilities of the human condition. He did not disdain human life because it would be hard.

Which brings us to this hard moment in human history – when the pandemic COVID-19 covers the whole earth, and threatens our lives and our hope. Our response is to stay home, keep six feet of social distance, wash hands, avoid touching our faces, and provide special protection for the elderly and medically fragile.

Perhaps as important for us as companions of Jesus, our response is also to hope. Hope is trust in the promise of Jesus – that He accompanies us in all our trials, and brings life out of death. How else can we do what Pope Francis recommends in this crisis: pray for what we want, persevere in our prayer, and have courage.

Even if the present protocol is to hunker down at home, keep in touch with one another. Email or phone. Check in. And make a list of dear ones you want the good Lord to bless. Pray. Persevere. Courage!

With love and prayers,

Fr. Craig