



Office of the Archbishop
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August 8, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us always.

For the past five months we have made many sacrifices in regards to the global COVID-19 pandemic. I want to thank all of you for your efforts and patience. We have done well.

Recently, the number of cases has increased causing concern that hospitals may run out of ICU bed capacity by mid-September. Our mayor has determined that it is in the best interest of all the people in the Municipality of Anchorage to act immediately to flatten the curve. He has limited the occupancy of indoor gatherings, including religious gatherings, to 15 people, until August 30. We continue to do our part to defeat this awful disease. I have been in dialogue with the mayor and the governor.

Please continue to socially distance six-feet from non-household members, wear cloth face coverings (masks) especially inside the church, and wash hands as often as possible. These actions are an opportunity to practice the virtues of humility and simplicity. They are most especially Acts of Charity; expressions of our love and care for one another. It is because of our compliance with these Acts of Charity that our churches remain open, the sacraments are administered and Holy Communion is available. Remember that your priests and deacons are exposed to many people in the church and especially when they distribute Holy Communion. Let's do our best to keep them safe and healthy too.

Please join me on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. via streaming from Holy Family Cathedral (<https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilycathedral.anchorage>) for a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament to pray together for an end to this pandemic, and to pray for wisdom for our elected officials who have been entrusted with the safety and wellbeing of our city and state. I ask every Catholic in the archdiocese to pray daily, especially the rosary, for these same intentions. Let us never underestimate the power of prayer.

O Mary, conceived without sin, prayer for us who have recourse to thee!

Jesus, we trust in you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop Andrew Bellisario, C.M.