

April 22, 2020

A Pastoral Word of Encouragement to Our Pastors and Chaplains and Other Authorized Ministers (Letter #4)

Dear Friends in Christ,

In this season of the COVID 19 pandemic, we write to offer you a word of encouragement, blessing, and thanks. We want you to know that we have observed your remarkable gifts in their many expressions in this extraordinary time. We are moved by the ways God is using you to be agents of love, healing, and care.

For parish pastors, the meaning of presence has been expanded in this time of shelter at home and has required special effort. We have appreciated your creativity and innovation to meet challenges that daily seem to present themselves. The need to pastorally pivot and engage the use of technology has been inspiring to see. Equally inspiring is the creativity of those of you serving in settings where technology is not readily available but for whom the phone and regular mail has taken on a special and deep quality of connection. Each setting of ministry has been the ground of necessary innovation and extra energy.

For you who are chaplains, serving in so many ways as the very presence of family to those who are unable to be in the presence of their loved ones, we are so very grateful for your courage, commitment, and service. Your very presence is the sign of Christ in the rooms you enter and the lives you encounter. Your commitment to this vital work inspires and enriches us all and we are so thankful that you have said, “Yes”, again and again to this call.

To all of you serving in other settings, may you know of our deep gratitude for your ministry, wherever it is that God is calling you in these days.

Please know that we hold you in our hearts, praying God’s blessings around you all for renewed strength and loving energy each new day. May God’s resurrection power be at work in you. If there is any way that we can be of support to you, please know that we want to be. Feel free to contact any of us as you may have the need.

With grateful hearts,

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