

June 14, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of you who have so faithfully continued to tithe throughout the Covid-19 shutdown. To say that we are in uncertain times is an understatement as our church has never experienced anything quite like this in our lifetime.

While the recent news appears to be somewhat encouraging, we are still limited to the number of folks who may attend Mass and we are obviously being affected by the absence of tourists to our Cathedral, a problem that may be with us for a while.

A recent review of our financial situation here at the Cathedral revealed some concerning facts. When comparing income from March to May of 2019 with that of March to May of the current year we determined that we have lost a total of \$318,000.00 in income between the Cathedral and the Old Ursuline Convent Museum since the government mandates were activated. The majority of this deficit comes from the lack of a weekly loose collection, candle sales, weddings, gift shop sales and museum admissions during the shutdown. I am hopeful that as we enter the phases of recovery we will be able to overcome some of these losses though it will be a long process as we await the return of the tourist and convention industry to our city.

I ask that you join me in praying for this recovery. Our City and Church have faced difficult times in the past and proved to be quite resilient in the comeback. I am confident that through prayer and cooperation we will get through the challenges of this pandemic and emerge successful. As we enter these early days of reopening, I ask that you encourage family and friends to join us for our Sunday celebration of Mass at 11:00 a.m. I would also ask that you spread the word that the Cathedral is open daily from 10:00 to 3:00 at this time and that these hours will soon be extended as we officially enter phase two in the city. The Cathedral gift shop is now open from 11:00-1:00 and we look forward to the day that we may reopen the Museum at the Old Ursuline Convent.

In closing, I thank you again for your continued support and optimistically await the return to a more normal situation. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your families. May God bless you and keep you well.

Sincerely yours in Christ and His Blessed Mother,



Very Rev. Philip G. Landry
Rector