



Catholic Strategies COVID-19 Response for Dioceses *Sample video script for bishop or pastor*

Hello, brothers and sisters.

It would be difficult to overstate how challenging these days have been for all of us, as we face the various effects of the COVID-19 crisis on our families, jobs, and communities.

Among the most dramatic ways we all have had to adjust to the coronavirus pandemic and control the spread of the virus is the suspension of Holy Mass and refraining from gathering in community.

Please know that we bishops and priests miss our parishioners deeply! When we offer our private Masses each day, we are praying for your intentions. I hope you are praying a prayer of spiritual communion often, and that you are comforted by the constant presence of our Lord even when you cannot receive him physically.

In addition to the impact on our spiritual lives, the crisis is having significant financial and economic impacts on us all. Our inability to gather each week at Mass also means your parish is unable to receive your offertory gift there, and I cannot stress to you how vital this support is to your parish and the people who work there. Parish and parochial-school

operating budgets depend on this revenue to pay employees and all the other monthly expenses associated with running the church. Most parishes don't have large sums in reserve. Your continued support of your parish is crucial now.

Please go to our online giving page at [*add URL*] and set up your regular contributions to your parish as soon as possible. Of course, you may also mail your contribution to your parish. Either option will be greatly appreciated; however, the online giving option enables you to make a recurring gift that will give your parish greater financial stability during this crisis and in the future.

Many of our people also are in financial hardship because of this crisis. If your circumstances prohibit you from giving now, we understand completely and only pray that your situation improves very soon. If you are in urgent need of help, please contact our diocesan Catholic Charities offices at [*web address and/or phone number*].

We know this crisis is causing fear and anxiety, two things the Lord does not want us to experience. I urge you to go to your Bible and revisit those passages where God reminds us that, even in the midst of fear and turmoil, he is walking with us and holding us close to him.

Thank you for your prayers, your faithfulness, and your support. May the Lord bless and keep each of you and your loved ones during this challenging and historic time.

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