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Dear Brother Priests, Deacons and Subdeacons, Consecrated Men and Women, Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We have received many inquiries regarding safe practices during this troubling time of the Novel Coronavirus. We continue to monitor the rapidly evolving circumstances, taking the safety and health of our faithful seriously. We follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for COVID-19 and encourage all who are feeling ill or exhibiting any flu-like symptoms, to stay home and stay safe. Likewise, we suggest minimizing handshakes, hugs and kisses in the parishes until the pandemic passes. We can share love for one another in a variety of other ways.

The Coronavirus has reminded us of just how vulnerable we truly are, how much we need to care for one another, and how great is our need for God.

Our Patriarch has issued some practical guidelines for Lebanon, and I agree completely with these for Lebanon in their time of great need. I also note that various Latin Bishops of the United States have issued guidelines as well for their Dioceses.

Nonetheless, we have discerned once again that no change should be made to the distribution of Holy Communion distributed under both species, by intinction, in the usual way, with as much care as possible. If a parishioner insists on receiving in the hand, it can be done without intinction. Nonetheless, we should note that this is temporary.

It is also acceptable at this time not to exchange the greeting of peace in our traditional way, but to still make the gesture that peace comes from the altar and goes to each person without touching.

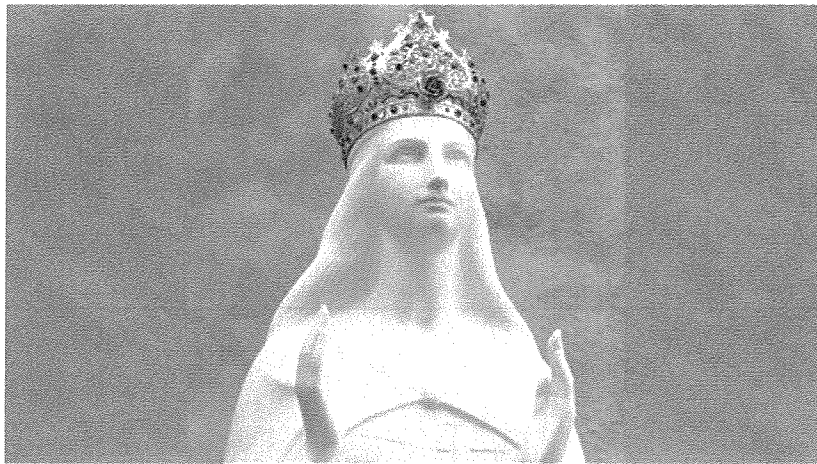
Some have asked if we should cancel Friday services in Lent or other parish gatherings. We do not advise it at this time. Let's just be careful; we should not cease most of our Lenten or parish functions.

Safety and the sacred quality of Liturgy are both important, and we can do both. I encourage you to refer to the [CDC COVID-19 webpage](#) for the latest information to stay informed and stay safe.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Gregory

+ Gregory John Mansour



Most Glorious Queen of Heaven and Mother of God,
You whom the Blessed Trinity has crowned with
unequaled glory.

You are the Sovereign Queen over all God's Creation.
I place myself and all my loved ones under the power,
protection and sovereignty of your Crown¹.

Under the protection of your crown I will fear no other
crown and through your immense intercessory power
I ask you to spare us all from
the effects of the corona virus.

Dearest Mother and Queen,
(more Mother than Queen),
we, your children in Christ Jesus,
ask you to obtain for us
an end to the spread of this virus. Amen.

(Now Pray the Memorare)

¹ Corona comes from the Latin word for crown.