David – Prayer - Taken from CHA Website for peace and anxiety for the Pandemic

Major topics: Resources can be shared for posting to our website. We will be posting about the Fundamentals around the Sacrament of Anointing, and Q&A with CHA, etc. We will highlight resources received, recordings and transcriptions of Listening Sessions, Prayers and links, etc.

Refer to NACC website https://www.nacc.org/resources/coronavirus-resources/ New things are being posted daily, there are many new resources to be used in your ministry.

Refer to the CHA website https://www.chausa.org/ for resources. New things are being posted daily.


Review your diocesan websites for local resources and support including on-line Masses, rosaries and prayers.

We’ve had several sessions; so many things are changing so quickly.

We were scheduled to have a communal penance service. Is there any provision about televising a service and to give general absolution to people who are watching? Virtual sacraments? (Rochester MN diocese)

The (Decree from Penitentiary) guidelines (https://www.nacc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Decree-of-the-Apostolic-Penitentiary.pdf) we have are that the bishops are to regulate general absolution. If the priest is outside of the area they can assure and convey God’s mercy and forgiveness. It would be good to know how you are doing this in your diocese.

The guidelines from LA Archdiocese don’t allow Virtual General Absolution. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that in making a Perfect Act of Contrition that both venial and mortal sins are forgiven. Remember Christ acts outside the Sacramental System. Just saying the name of Jesus gives a Plenary Indulgence.

No active cases here at St. Joseph’s in Ojai, nor at our large center, St. John of God Ret. & Care Center in LA which has about 160 people.

Before the virus, we had a communal penance service, but there was no confession in LTC. Patients ask did they receive absolution if they didn’t hear the words. Given their closed environment and they don’t commit mortal sins, that an act of contrition is acceptable. Catechesis needs to be done to allow for understanding. This is delicate because of how people understand this. I am curious about the plenary indulgences that the Pope will be giving on Friday. I understand that that forgives sins, with additional prayers. Could you comment.

David is showing Q&A regarding Sacramental Practice during COVID-19. Talk of the indulgence. We will be posting this document in our resources. (from the Q&A)


“On March 20, 2020, the Apostolic Penitentiary, which is the office of the Church that provides guidance on the forgiveness of sins, decreed, with the authority of Pope Francis, that a plenary indulgence, or a full pardon for sins, be granted to any person who cannot access to the Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist, or Anointing of the Sick and the Viaticum, who seeks God’s mercy, forgiveness, and healing, and who firmly intends to receive any of those sacraments when they are available again, has the assurance of God’s full forgiveness and mercy. It reminds the believer that the Church is praying for that person, “entrusting each and every one to divine Mercy by virtue of the communion of saints and
granting the faithful a Plenary Indulgence on the point of death, provided that they are duly disposed and have recited a few prayers during their lifetime.” It’s the Church’s way of communicating to all believers that our merciful, compassionate God is with us, bringing us near, forgiving us, and embracing us in this time of great suffering, anxiety and fear.”

We should have this posted on our site. It has been reviewed by Bishop Hying.


God’s there, God’s pardoning, God’s forgiving. That is the thought behind this.


As a lay person we cannot say we are releasing someone, can we adapt the prayer, to what is attended. This is language to give comfort. We do not have the authority, but that it is extended by the Pope.

I want to be able to reassure those I minister to.

I am at Avera in Marshall, MN. Currently we have no active cases however we recently received a patient with the symptoms and has been in contact with someone with the virus.

Besides sacramental ministry, what are some of the ways that you are trying to lift the spirits of the residents especially when we are not allowed to gather in group settings?

Remember the Pastoral Care of Sick Book has wonderful resources that chaplains can use for Prayers for the Commendation for the Dying.

One of the great learnings in CPE, our instructor showed us how to adapt the Pastoral Care book for the dying to the situation and the setting to assure of God’s care. To deal with anxiety and fear factor when a clergy cannot be present.

Perhaps we can do a webinar on the Pastoral Care for the Sick book. I’m sure most of you use it.

I have a question about communion. According to the system that manages us Chaplains may give communion. If we run out of communion to distributed, can a priest say a private Mass to consecrate more bread?

Yes a priest can consecrate more hosts in a private mass. Your diocese may have more guidance for you.

How are you trying to lift the spirits of the residents? When not allowed to gather in group settings.

I’ve done a lot of one on one in LTC, I try to keep the distance, talk to them. I give communion once a week to each unit. I think because we have many sisters, it’s a hardship to be without it. A few people like activity books, I started reading a book out loud, to see how others process. It’s time consuming, things change every day. Do you go to meetings or minister? I try for more floor time.

Trinity Health has given instruction about how to minister on the phone, but I don’t always have time to read the new information. Older adults need to interact. With hearing problems, so phone is not always the answer. Presence is necessary, good handwashing, its constant. I find our isolation hard in our community life. Not sure how others are managing. It’s hard in our professional setting, we talk across tables, we are distanced. It’s doable but it’s not comfortable.

There is the uncertainty, even when it is awkward. It gets in the way of our intimacy.

Pope Francis will give on Friday March 27th 6PM Rome Time (Noon ET) the “Urbi et Orbi “To the City of Rom & to the World a special apostolic blessing from the balcony of St. Peter’s. All are invited to join via media. “All
those who spiritual join this moment of prayer through the media will be granted the plenary indulgence according to the conditions provided for in the recent decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary.” From the Holy See Press Office, Dir. Matteo Bruni.


There is an appreciation of video calls.

How are you handling compassionate visits with family? Active cases will have people die without family around them.

Hospice outside. Patient died yesterday. We did phone visits. It was hard for members. I called by phone, offered prayers. It needs to be done by phone, spiritual direction and grief counseling. Wider group, I’m emailing texts and other sources for people.

We’re limiting visits, so when family wants to say goodbye only one is allowed. It is a challenge not to create more grief. In recent experience too many family members show up and then congregate in the lobby. How do we keep our residents safe? Can we lift restrictions without risking Corvid cases? We are trying not to allow them into the building.

We’re allowing one person if someone is dying. They are on hospice. We have 9 currently, and only 1 family member. Everyone else is without visitors. People show up and stand outside their window. Only nursing staff, aids and chaplain, activities are the only presence. Depression is rising

When you have an active case, what changes for the chaplain? It’s challenging to read about the facilities that have had many cases.

What is the level of anxiety with the staff, balancing home front, work front?

I ask each staff member how you are doing; do we need to talk to the Lord? They need a lot of support. Someone was on a cruise, cannot come back to work, single mom, struggling.

I saw this quote: “Remember, you are still part of a community.” Fr. James Martin, SJ

We are all connected, and that intentional consciousness is most important as well as how we communicate that connectedness by word and gesture and action.

Families supporting as others lose their livelihoods

We gave loaves of bread, toilet paper to our CNAs. We want people to keep working, we are doing what we can to help. I put out Care Notes for stress, communication

We have contained our Covid-19 patients under investigation in one unit (third floor) and Chaplains are not allowed to visit unless there’s a dire need to see a bereaved family member but not in the patient’s room. We didn’t have a death in our facility yet but in one of our other facility there was one, but I am not aware of the details how they handled it.

How can we better support you? To hear others who are in the same shoes. TO hear how things are different across the country.

Thank you for your support

Please forward all the resources you have. We appreciate how everyone is responding

Continue to provide resources for us to access. These calls help
I do daily check in’s w/ our Campus Director, meet w/ residents in our dining room keeping the 6 ft distance, checking in w/ my community of Bros on a daily basis as we are still able to pray together 2X a day as well as have Mass in our chapel each day. Blessings.

If you use the prayer of spiritual communion, what prayers can you offer for non-Catholics in your facilities?

Prayer for Spiritual Communion is a beautiful prayer. Today’s webinar was on this. We can try to make this available.

Please share resources