26 February 2020

To the faithful living and serving in Italy

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Reports continue to reach me regarding the precautions being taken to curtail the spread of the corona virus. I deeply regret that prudence has dictated eliminating the gathering of even modest sized assemblies.

Therefore, at some installations Masses have been cancelled, fellowship limited, and religious education curtailed. Please try to take advantage of and participate in the attempts that your priests are making to offer at least virtual presence and participation at the Masses they celebrate. Of course, it is not the same reality to view a Mass rather than to be able to celebrate it in the community.

You can find resources on line, as well: http://www.usccb.org/calendar/index.cfm for the Mass readings. The AMS app also offers resources for spiritual growth: https://www.milarch.org/ams-app/.

If you are able to participate in the celebration of Mass, please take precautions to avoid the spread of disease and remember that one who receives Holy Communion with only the consecrated Host still receives Christ, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.

I want to assure you of my prayers and my attention to this situation. I know that you will offer this hardship up for the salvation of souls and world peace, especially as we enter the holy season of Lent.

Just as the Church has always stood by those suffering under persecution, so also in this time of a new plague, she wants to be near to her daughters and sons. You are not far from my thoughts. My Vicar for your area, Bishop Muhm, will try to respond to individual requests for guidance. May his presence in your midst be a sign of our love and deep concern for each one of you.

Invoking abundant blessings upon you as we begin the season of Lent, I promise my continued prayers and remain

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Timothy P. Broglio

(The Most Reverend) Timothy P. Broglio
Archbishop for the Military Services, USA