



ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA  
The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio

16 March 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.” (Rom. 12: 11-12)

These weeks are difficult for everyone in the global Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. Please be assured of my prayers for all of you and my desire to respond to your spiritual needs, especially in a time of affliction. I hope that the following guidelines might ease your concerns.

Given the unique nature of the archdiocese, the decision to close or allow a chapel to remain open belongs to the installation commander. Our communities are generally composed of those who have access to an installation.

Where Mass is offered the following groups of people may consider themselves dispensed from the Sunday obligation;

- Those 60 years of age or older
- The ill or infirm
- Those charged with the care of young children and concerned about their possible infection
- Those in anguish about being present in a larger assembly of people

I have encouraged the priests to continue the celebration of Mass and to use live-streaming if it is possible. While virtual presence at the Eucharistic Sacrifice is never a substitute for your physical presence and participation, it is much better than nothing at all. Please know that EWTN, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and other Catholic television stations broadcast or livestream the Mass. You can find resources online, 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/>.

None of us is dispensed from the obligation of prayer. Archbishop José Gómez, Archbishop of Los Angeles and President of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, has written a prayer in English and Spanish:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/communications/usccb-president-reflection-and-prayer-during-coronavirus.cfm>. It can be reproduced, and I urge you to pray it daily.

In those places where Mass can be offered, I recommend that Holy Communion be distributed only under the species of the Sacred Host. Receiving either the Host or the Precious Blood, one receives Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. It would

be best not to have holy water in the fonts and the sign of peace during Mass may be eliminated or communicated with a simple bow of the head to your neighbors.

None of us knows how long this emergency will continue. The Auxiliary Bishops and I intend to continue our schedule of pastoral visitations, but we recognize that large gatherings of people are discouraged and chapels may be closed. If a visit is cancelled by the competent authorities, we will do our best to return as soon as possible. Pope Francis has urged us to remain close to the people we are privileged to serve and we intend to do that to the extent of our power in your need.

When Pope Benedict XVI came to the United States twelve years ago he reminded us that Christians are a people of hope and people of hope lead different lives. May our hope encourage others even in this challenging time.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy P. Broglio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

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