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COVID-19 Update
Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas
April 8, 2020

A reminder that with our present restrictions all public gatherings are not permitted. Private gatherings are highly discouraged and must be in accord with your local health authority and community leaders (there are to be no more than five people in some areas and no more than ten in every area).

The most recent update from the MB Government on April 7th includes "Manitobans are reminded to stay home if they can, and this includes family gatherings. While many families get together for Easter or Passover celebrations, people should not let their guard down by gathering this year."

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/updates/index.html>.

I think this is good advice to Saskatchewan people as well.

Even just two months ago, if you had told me TSN would have no sports to report on, I would have rolled my eyes and physically distanced myself from you. It is amazing to me that pretty well all professional sports have made the sacrifice to not have any public events. Our schools, who take very seriously the importance of educating children and getting the children through their studies, have chosen to close or at least only continue their classes on line. If these groups and many others are making such sacrifices, it is necessary that we as Churches are also making sacrifices. I highly encourage that you continue to practice physical distancing and not partake in any public gatherings, avoid unnecessary trips, and to frequently wash your hands. Please keep working with your local health authority and community leaders.

The word that I keep hearing in my mind is: patience.

Today, especially, we need to make the best of our situation. This is an important opportunity to have family prayer in our homes. When I am asked to bless a home I always start by thanking God for his presence with us at Church, but that we are also very much inviting God to be with us in our homes. We have long had a saying: The family that prays together, stays together. In this time of quarantines maybe we need to change it to: The family that prays together, stays together with more forgiveness, love and patience. This is a great chance to start or strengthen some good prayer habits as a family in our own homes.

We will continue to offer videos of the Holy Week liturgies from our Cathedral. Holy Thursday service will be available by Thursday at 6pm. Good Friday Service by 3pm. The Easter Vigil by 6pm Saturday night. And Easter Sunday Mass will be available early Sunday morning. During the videos I will be inviting you to participate in particular ways in your own homes.

Archdiocesan Masses on Internet: *You can view the Masses from our Cathedral at our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/KeewatinYouth/> or you can go to our Youtube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe6PQ_Tl-xM6-mxCfz3e9JA*

At this time there are financial concerns for all of us. With no public services your local parish is suffering financially. Please consider an Easter donation to your local parish.

Only God knows what the days ahead of us will be like. After this has passed, in hindsight we will better know what precautions and practices were truly helpful and what were our biggest mistakes. We work with our leaders today who are doing the best they can and we try to learn lessons from other countries who are further along the COVID-19 experience.

May God grant us patience and compassion for each other these Holy Days. A blessed Easter to you all.

Yours in Christ,

*Archbishop Murray Chatlain
Fr. Jim Fiori OMI*