

From: Fr. Michael J. Lumpe
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 4:01 PM
Subject: Update Letter from Bishop Brennan

Dear brother priests:

I hope that despite the news that the coronavirus pandemic may take longer than anticipated to "peak" here in Ohio that you continue, day by day, to focus on your ministry to people in the creative ways that you have shown over the past couple of weeks. I pray, too, that you personally are maintaining your spiritual life. I think we have all found it fruitful to set aside time for a daily holy hourchapel; may all of us continue to renew and refresh ourselves spiritually in this regard.

I have just two items for today.

FIRST: At the request of some of our brother priests a fourth Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) training session and Q&A has been scheduled for **Tuesday, March 31, 3:00 p.m., via ZOOM conference call** with the team of Dr. Marian Schuda, Fr. Mike Lumpe and Fr. Dean Mathewson. If you meet the age and health eligibility requirements for COVID-19 "end of life" sacramental care that we have previously shared with you, please contact Mike Lumpe to sign up for this training session. If you have any questions about this PPE training and Q&A please contact Mike in advance.

SECOND: Due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic, the Pre-Cana day Saturday, April 25, at St. Elizabeth Church in Columbus is cancelled. Couples who were signed up for this session have been notified and will be refunded the cost of the day. They were also given the option of registering for a future Pre-Cana date or making use of online marriage preparation through the program, [Smart Loving](#). Smart Loving is a course comprising nine 1.5 hour lessons that couples can take over a three-month period; it can be done more quickly by the couple if need be. It is \$68 and will provide both a certificate to the couple and "celebrant report" for clergy. If you have any questions about this, contact the Marriage & Family Life Office at 614-241-2560 or familylife@columbuscatholic.org.

In closing, I was deeply moved by the Holy Father's extraordinary *Urbi et Orbi* meditation and blessing last week -- I hope you and your parishioners were inspired as well. One of the things that Pope Francis said, and is worth thinking about, was this: "The Lord asks us and, in the midst of our tempest, invites us to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering. The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith. We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross we have been

redeemed. We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love. In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side."

Fraternally,
Bishop Brennan