

Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan

La Corporation Épiscopale Catholique Romaine de Grouard

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“God wants you all to be holy.”

-1 Thessalonians 4:3



Wednesday March 18, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With COVID-19 disrupting the rhythm of life and the ‘normalcy’ we often take for granted, we do not know when to expect a return to ‘life as it was’, and for some people, this pandemic has changed life forever. We must keep the faith, pray that God is in control. As we journey closer to Holy Week, we might be tempted to believe that Satan, the devil, has the upper hand, but when we read the Passion narratives closely, we find that Jesus is truly the One in control of each situation. And so why did Jesus accept to suffer the passion? Why did he allow himself to be crucified? The answer, ‘for love of the Father and for love of each and everyone of us’.

While many are experiencing fear and anguish with the coronavirus pandemic, we must remember that this too will pass and there will be a new day, and a new normalcy to life. In the meantime, we ask that our spiritual life and our spiritual home not be put aside even when all masses and liturgical celebrations have been cancelled. We began Lent with the invitation to prayer, to fasting and to almsgiving, to a change of heart turned to Jesus and to the blessings received daily from God. In our daily prayer, let us pray for the poor and for the people in greater need, of food and of justice and of love and affection. Let us pray for peace in a world of turmoil and disbelief. Let us pray for the Church and for each other. Remember to pray also for your parish family and faith community.

In these disconcerting times and with the closure of our churches from celebrating masses and other liturgies, remember that there is still a financial responsibility owed to our local church. Bills need to be paid and the facility maintained. For those contributing weekly through **PAD (Pre-Authorized Debit)**, we thank you. For anyone not yet using PAD and would like to subscribe to it, please contact the Chancery to set up your contract. Contact information is found above in the header. Your payment will be revenue for your parish. With some financial uncertainty looming for a good number of families, we ask that you not completely stop weekly donations, though you may feel you need to reduce it. Pray in faith that the Lord will provide. Every financial donation will be better than nothing at all.

This time of uncertainty will pass! There will come a new normalcy, hopefully one that finds us with a deeper faith, with a greater appreciation for life and with a heart of gratitude for the many blessings and graces we are receiving.

May the Lord bless you and protect you from all harm and give you peace.

Monsignor Charles Lavoie PH, Vicar General

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