March 18, 2020

My Dear St. Cyprian Family,

During this time of crisis and uncertainty caused by the Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic, almost everything that we are concerned about - our own financial, physical, relational, health and personal concerns are greatly affected. Our current crisis makes us fearful each day. Fear is a powerful human emotion that can cause us to respond inappropriately, like panic buying and hoarding. It can paralyze us from taking any action. It can even stop us from turning to God, who knows every personal and world disruption we are facing because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is during unsettling times that we need to find our peace in the presence of the Lord. He is the only one who can effectively prevent the contagious epidemic of fear caused by this pandemic. It is during this time that we need to remember and reflect on God’s timeless word: “Fear not… do not be afraid.”

I would like to assure you of my constant prayers for all of you. I will offer my private Masses for your intentions and those intentions already submitted to the office to be prayed for.

As the shelter in place ordinance is in effect on our County, love for our neighbor means distancing from them, giving waves of greeting instead of hugs. Perhaps this "social distancing" could also be done in the spirit of abstinence. It teaches sacrifice, patience, and humility - we can't always grab everything within our reach. Hopefully, by Easter, we can be together once again as one community of faith and fully celebrate as one family with our Risen Christ.

Let us continue to pray together for an end to this health crisis, for the eradication of the coronavirus, for those who have been stricken ill, for the families of those who are affected by it, for all healthcare workers and first responders. Let us also pray for the repose of the souls of those who died from this.

For your information, please visit our parish website (www.saintcyprian.org) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/SaintCyp.sv) for updates. Also, find below the links to the list of parishes that are offering live streaming of Masses within our Diocese:

https://www.dsj.org/vlog/live-stream-video-mass-list
https://www.facebook.com/DioceseSanJose

Stay healthy and be safe.

May God bless us all,