

**I am very saddened, but in complete agreement, with the latest directive from our Bishop. I quote from his letter this afternoon to all the pastors.**

*We continue to witness the increase of coronavirus-related illnesses in New York, California, and Washington State, and in other epicenters like Italy and Spain. From these highly affected communities, we are learning important lessons. Most especially, we are learning that in order to break the back of the coronavirus pandemic, it is vitally necessary to discontinue all social interaction outside the home. This reality has been underscored by the Governor's office, the Southern Nevada Health District, and the Centers for Disease Control.*

*Therefore, I have concluded that there needs to be whole-hearted cooperation with the medical community's advice, which is clear and compelling. The time has arrived for us in the Diocese of Las Vegas to close all of our worship spaces entirely, thus discontinuing access to parish churches, adoration chapels, and other parish spaces where parishioners have gathered during these difficult days.*

*This Discontinuance Order addresses access to parish buildings and properties, includes, but is not limited to:*

- *Private prayer and Adoration;*
- *Hearing confessions, including "drive up" (except in danger of death);*
- *The distribution of palms (which should be dried and distributed after the Discontinuance Order is lifted);*
- *"Drive up" distribution of Communion; and*
- *Outdoor sunrise Easter services.*

*I also encourage pastors to dissuade various groups, both related and unrelated to the parish (like charismatic,*

*Marian, and fraternal organizations), from gathering in private homes, thus placing children and elderly in danger. Like all of you, I await the day when we can once again gather as a Diocesan and parish community, celebrating the*

*Eucharistic Liturgy and rejoicing in one another's company. Until then, I am consoled by the notion that the domestic Church, so eloquently described in the documents of the Second Vatican Council, remains as the primary venue for prayer, instruction of the young, and a source of consolation and comfort for our families.*

*Please be certain of my daily prayers, blessings and loving support. “*

*Most Rev. George Leo Thomas*

Therefore, our church will be closed until further notice: no public visiting hours whatsoever! Please read carefully and thoroughly the Bishop's directives above: we MUST follow them starting now. I am truly saddened, but I know this has to be done. I ask those who normally attend Morning Mass to please check up regularly with each other; if there are any concerns, please contact me at [frbill@holyspiritlv.org](mailto:frbill@holyspiritlv.org). We are still allowed to tape a Mass (with only 10 in attendance, counting the ministers; so NO parishioners may attend); it will be available on Saturday, March 28, at 4:00 p.m. and able to viewed from that time on until next week.

Love and prayers to all, Fr. Bill