



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PHOENIX

March 25, 2020
Feast of the Annunciation

Dear Husbands and Wives, Mothers and Fathers of the Diocese of Phoenix,

Bishop Nevares and I wish to reach out to each of you during this time of great uncertainty as our nation along with the whole world face the COVID-19 virus. We are deeply aware of many difficulties you are facing, and we are also aware of your dignity and calling as the leaders of your “little church” in the home. Jesus Himself promised us that “where two or more are gathered in My name, there I am in the midst of them.”

In times like this we are called, even more profoundly, to live the fullness of Christian family life. And while many of us are spending more time than ever at home, what a time to grow in prayer and centeredness on Jesus! When we pray, and when He is with us, fear is diminished, and love grows.

Providentially, this year marks the 150th Anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. We are inspired by his faithful protection of Mary and Jesus, and his steady leadership through very uncertain times for his family as husband and father. Whom better can we turn to in a time of such uncertainty?

For this reason, earlier this week, we bishops have earnestly invited the priests and deacons of the Diocese to participate with us in a special Consecration to St. Joseph. **We invite you to join us beginning next Monday, March 30, on this 33-Day journey. We will complete the Consecration on May 1, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.**

To do the consecration, obtain the new book, **Consecration to St. Joseph**, written by Fr. Donald H. Calloway, MIC. This book is available online at www.consecrationtostjoseph.org in paperback and as an e-book for Diocese of Phoenix spouses and parents with a discount code. Use the code **Calloway** to receive an additional 15% discount.

Through this consecration, done together as brothers and sisters in union with the clergy of the diocese, we trust that St. Joseph will bring us under his protective care, enrich the spiritual and virtuous life of each family, and bind us more closely together.

May the Lord keep you and your family free of illness and remind us all of the privilege of being witnesses to the Gospel in these turbulent times.

Be assured of our prayers, particularly in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, you who lived family life most heroically, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Thomas J. Olmsted
Bishop of Phoenix

ENCOUNTERING THE LIVING CHRIST

400 EAST MONROE STREET, PHOENIX, AZ 85004-2336 | 602-354-2000