

04/01/20

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

If the rising infection and death rates from the Coronavirus and the drastic changes to our daily lives were not enough, we received notice today that Fr. Anthony Russo, C.Ss.R., died from cancer. Fr. Tony was 87. He was a holy, courageous, kind, and true gentleman who committed himself to ministry mostly here in Philadelphia, which he adopted as his home, and primarily with the deaf and spiritually troubled.

Since the Coronavirus has placed great restrictions on travel and the handling of deceased bodies, Fr. Tony will be cremated and his cremains will stay at our healthcare facility in Maryland for approximately 2 months until restrictions are lifted, at which time we will have a funeral for him in Philadelphia. God give you rest Padre.

Please also take note of our Holy Week schedule. We will have **Palm Sunday** and **Easter Sunday** services simulcast live from Visitation. We invite all to participate in the **Easter Triduum** – Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil – on television or online at [Sunday Mass at the Cathedral](#). We thought it better to join the larger Catholic community, indeed the worldwide Catholic community, through modern social media and communication mediums for the Triduum. **Fr. Peter will celebrate and broadcast the Easter Triduum from Visitation BVM in Vietnamese.**

While we cannot celebrate the sacraments publicly, I do tell you with joy two things: (1) **YOU CAN RECEIVE BLESSED PALMS**; and, (2) **YOU CAN GO TO INDIVIDUAL, SACRAMENTAL CONFESSION.**

Palms will be available Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at the chapel door between 10 am – 12 noon. These are the only times blessed palms will be available.

Confessions will be available this Saturday, April 4, from 3-5 pm, and Monday, April 6th of Holy Week, from 2-5 in the afternoon. In order to maintain the necessary 6 feet of distance between each person, you can enter through the lower Church and come up the steps behind the sanctuary to the chapel where will have enough space. If the times above do not suit you please call the rectory.

Please let us stay in contact with God and one another, especially through prayer. If you need anything, including food, please call the rectory (215-634-1133) or the Community Center.

In Christ the Most Holy Redeemer,

Francis Mulvaney, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Francis Mulvaney, C.Ss.R.

Pastor