

June 18, 2020

My post today will be brief as I had another funeral today in a funeral home and it is exhausting to me to do funerals without all of the support systems and people that our parish had cultivated and used to help grieving families find what I call "heart meaning" in our rituals and the people that make them happen.

We will have our first funeral Mass in the church this Saturday and it will be as sincere and as comforting and as real as we can make it but it will be different, very different.

The fact that there can be no touching, no human contact, no shared tears, no stories to be told and heard by friends and strangers is just terrible.

The funeral today was for the father of kids that I have known for years, kids that I watched grow up and assume various and sundry roles in their emerging adult lives and all I wanted to do was hug them, but I could not.

I cry at the funerals of strangers so when I have the funeral of someone that I am connected to I just cry, just cry until I stop, but crying with a face mask, fogged glasses and now, my new whole face shield was just a mess. The need to blow my nose was extreme but the face shield made that impossible. It was just a mess.

The absolute worse part of the whole thing is the absence of singing. Music is an essential and necessary component of Catholic ritual and we have superb music and musicians as an aspect of our parish and that like so many other things must now lie fallow for now.

Keeping the faith is tough these days and I appreciate your efforts so much, your continued support and affiliation with our parish in so many ways is just wonderful and together we will get through this but some days are just bad not because of what they hold but of how we have to hold them.

The overwhelming majority of you who have decided to not want to come back to Mass and the relatively few who have indicated that they want to come to Mass under the existing circumstances are both sources of incredible encouragement to me.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!