

My dear brothers and sisters of our Northwoods triparish,

I want you to know that I am quite well and fully recovered from the virus (no not *that* virus) that I brought back with me from my Mexican vacation. And I do thank all of you who have reached out to me as you always do when a fellow traveler is having some challenges.

Putting all good humor aside, you all are beginning to recognize the great challenge which *that* virus has brought to our nation and the world and- yes- even to our own area. The Superior Messenger has reported this past week our first known case of Covid-19 in Douglas County. That same report indicated there were another 114 known cases in our state.

As we always do in difficult times, we inevitably turn to prayer. And I have done that this past week in prayers for all of you in my daily and weekend, now private, masses that ask God to shower you and your families with the precious graces that only the Triune God and the Holy Family can offer. For your own prayers, I suggest you may want to use the prayer, below, that Pope Francis prayed last week, through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, on behalf of his Roman congregation which has been particularly hard hit by this virus.

May God bless and keep you well.

Peace,

Fr Jim

## **Pope Francis' Prayer**

*O Mary,*

*you always shine on our path*

*as a sign of salvation and of hope.*

*We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,*

*who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.*

*You, Salvation of our People*

*know what we need,*

*and we are sure you will provide*

*so that, as in Cana of Galilee,*

*we may return to joy and to feasting*

*after this time of trial.*

*Help us, Mother of Divine Love,*

*to conform to the will of the Father*

*and to do as we are told by Jesus,*

*who has taken upon himself our sufferings*

*and carried our sorrows*

*to lead us, through the cross,*

*to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.*

*Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.*