



DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

McRaith Catholic Center | *Office of the Bishop*

Friday, March 13, 2020

My dear sisters and brothers,

As a nation, and indeed as the world, the outbreak of the coronavirus reminds us how very quickly our lives can be changed and reminds us as well of our common humanity. No nation, no tribe, no group can count on being spared concern and sacrifice.

I received today a message from Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. His words are a comforting message of faith and hope. He wrote, “God does not abandon us, he goes with us even now in this time of trial and testing. In this moment, it is important for us to anchor our hearts in the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Now is the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our neighbor. Let us draw closer to one another in our love for him, and discover the things that truly matter in our lives.”

Though it seems the life of every person in the world will be impacted, let us pray earnestly now for those who are sick and those who will become sick. Let us pray for those who will be called to serve the sick that God protect them and comfort them.

While there are cautions all should take, this is an opportunity to be mindful of our neighbors in an extraordinary way. Watch out for each other. Offer a hand and encouragement where we can. For some this may be intensifying our prayer.

Pope Francis has shared with us a beautiful prayer to our Blessed Virgin Mother Mary. I encourage you and your family to join me in praying this prayer together every day. I will certainly pray for you and I kindly ask that you pray for me.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William F. Medley".

Most Reverend William F. Medley
Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro