



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Office of the Bishop
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Dear Parishioners:

Now that we are beginning to slowly and methodically emerge from the coronavirus situation in Ohio our parishes need full time planning and attention from their priests. With that in mind I am appointing Msgr. John Cody to serve as Administrator *pro tem* of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish. This appointment becomes effective Monday, May 4, 2020.

Msgr. Cody replaces Fr. Michael Lumpe, who continues to serve as my Vicar for Priests for the Diocese, and at the Pontifical College Josephinum seminary as Vice Rector of the College of Liberal Arts and Director of Admissions. Fr. Mike took on these added duties at OLPH for what I had originally hoped would have been a shorter period of time. But again as we begin to emerge from the coronavirus situation, a full-time parish administrator is necessary.

I want to thank Fr. Mike for his work at OLPH which stretched him very thin. I know how much he enjoys being with the people at OLPH and I'm sure he will make himself available to help out in your parish in the future.

Msgr. Cody will be working with Fr. Jim Colopy, the parish and school staff, those in leadership positions, and all of you in the coming weeks.

The first step, as you know, is the ability to have your confessions heard by appointment which, as I understand, will begin on Monday, May 4 at OLPH, with subsequent dates and opportunities.

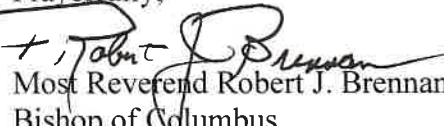
The next major step, as announced previously, is to have the public celebration of Mass beginning with the Solemnity of Pentecost, the last weekend of this month. There is much to do between now and the celebration of Pentecost.

The closing of churches to protect your health and safety during this time was not an easy one, and certainly something that I and the other bishops of Ohio did not take lightly. But these necessary steps and the sacrifices that all of us have made have paid dividends in the long run, with fewer than predicted coronavirus illnesses and deaths in our area. Still, many people have died, and we need to look beyond each human life as a mere number, a statistic, because behind each number is a human being – a mother, a father, brother or sister, child, friend, neighbor, co-worker, fellow parishioner, total stranger. So let us all continue to pray fervently for the souls lost to the coronavirus, those who have contracted this dreaded illness, the men and women on the front lines fighting this battle, and for all who are suffering and have been impacted during this time.

Incidentally, I had an enjoyable conversation earlier this week with your pastor, Fr. Dan Millisor, and I will share with you that he is making wonderful progress, but he still requires additional time away in counseling. He appreciates all of your cards and well wishes, and we continue to pray for his progress.

In closing, like you I yearn for a return to life as normal, and I firmly believe that we are getting there, one step at a time. Working together, and with Christ as our Shepherd, we are getting through this time. Please know of my continued prayers for you individually and collectively as a parish.

Prayerfully,


Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Columbus

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