



Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

A Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers

April 14, 2020

Dear Brothers,

Easter greetings from the PLT here in Elizabeth, NJ where we remain in lockdown. I hope that each of our communities throughout the Province was able to commemorate Holy Week and celebrate together our Lord's Resurrection on Easter Sunday in a meaningful way. Even during these days of quarantine, isolation and lockdown, it is important for us to recall that we are first and foremost, Religious Brothers. Our Constitutions tell us that:

Brotherhood in Community is a principal source of our companionship and a privileged context for our personal growth. (Constitution # 32)

It is in daily living that the challenge of community life manifests itself. We grow as persons as we come to accept the difficult task of living for others, and as we become aware of our gifts and limitations in our human interactions. To live in loving communion with our Brothers is a sacrament of the presence of God's Reign among us and a sign of the age to come. (Constitution # 39)

Brothers, perhaps now more than ever the reality of these two Constitutions is at the heart of our Brotherhood. We are all living in a state of uncertainty and ambiguity as our world and our communities feel the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Our communities have indeed become our principal source of companionship more so than ever before. As we hunker down and practice social distancing, the challenges of daily community living are manifesting themselves to us. As we become aware of one another's gifts and limitations, my prayer for each of you is that we do in fact accept the difficult task of living for each other and that we do experience living in communion with our Brothers as a sign of the sacrament of the presence of God's Reign among us. Living today as Christian Brothers requires this of us. We are all in this together. May we be one with each other in the spirit of the Risen Jesus.

Recently, members of the PLT have been receiving e-mails, text messages and phone calls with rumors about our Brothers at St. Joseph's Residence in New Rochelle. One rumor has it that seven of our Brothers at St. Joe's have tested positive for the virus. **This is not the case.**

Please know that for reasons of confidentiality, we cannot release the names of Brothers who have tested positive. **We can tell you at this point that we are aware of two Brothers who have tested positive at St. Joe's.** As you know, the Brothers who are residents at St. Joe's are there because of an underlying health concern. The very nature of St. Joe's is that when illnesses occur that are beyond St. Joe's capabilities to care for a particular Brother, that Brother may be sent to the Emergency Room, he may be hospitalized or he may be moved to the Cabrini Home



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in Dobbs Ferry, NY. This is a natural occurrence that is continuing throughout these coronavirus times. It does not mean that a Brother has tested positive.

On behalf of the PLT, I want to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to Jim Moffett, Greg McNally, Pat O'Toole and their stellar team of nurses, aides, cooks, etc. who have done a tremendous job in dealing with our Brothers with great care and compassion. Let us all hold them and all of our Brothers at St. Joe's and in other care facilities across North America in prayer.

May God bless each of you and our communities, as together we unite as one band of Christian Brothers who are committed to one another in faith, hope and love.

God bless,

Kevin