



May 23, 2020

Dear Father,

The Peace of the Risen Lord be with you!

We eagerly look forward to gathering for the public celebration of Sunday Mass with our parishioners. As a former pastor myself, nothing surpasses the joy of celebrating the Eucharist with your people.

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Catholic Comeback calls for the gradual return to Sunday Mass beginning on Pentecost Sunday, May 31. However, some have expressed concerns, particularly in the City of Milwaukee, about the ability to do so safely and responsibly.

After consultation with the Vicar General for the area and with some of the pastors of the near south side Milwaukee parishes, I have concerns about our ability to control both attendance and proper social distancing protocols. The health and safety of our people is our priority. I do not want to put anyone at undue risk. Given my understanding of the current health realities, the risk of returning to Mass for Pentecost is a risk in good conscience that I cannot take.

As such, I am directing the parishes of the near south side of Milwaukee to delay the return to Mass beyond May 31. It is important that we stay unified in our decisions and in the gradual return to Mass and the reopening of our parishes. We are always united as one in our Lord Jesus Christ. I will continue to consult with you through the Vicar for Hispanic Ministry, and with healthcare professionals. In monitoring the latest analysis of health conditions in our city, I will provide ongoing directions on a week-to-week basis.

I know this is may be a difficult decision to accept for both you and your people. I thank you for your support. Please know of my gratitude for your leadership and for your priestly vocation.

With assurance of prayers for you and those entrusted to your care, especially during this glorious Easter season, and asking the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki
Archbishop of Milwaukee

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