



April 13, 2020

Dear Father, Parish Director and Deacon,

Christ has Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!

This Triduum was unlike any other I have experienced in my priesthood. There were some beautiful moments of celebration, surrounded by a sadness that we could not be together with our communities.

Last week, to try and help navigate this turbulent time, I emailed you that I would allow parking lot Masses for Easter Sunday. My hope was to provide a moment of hope and unity with our people. After hearing reports from several areas where such Masses were celebrated, it is clear that my optimism got the better of me.

Parking lot Masses are not possible if we want to maintain our priorities of keeping people safe (including ourselves and our staff), preserving the dignity of the Eucharist, and sustaining unity among ourselves, as ministers and leaders.

Given that we are a Sacramental Church, a Eucharistic people; parking lot Masses should not be celebrated, mainly because the distribution of the Eucharist cannot be done in a consistent and safe dignified manner.

We tried it and I was willing to do so, but now we can see that it is not a good idea. For the greater good of our Catholic community and the larger community, this is a sacrifice we have to make. I probably knew this in my heart all along, but I was motivated by my own desire to respond to your needs and the spiritual desire of our people.

So, after consultation this morning with my Auxiliary Bishops and several of the Vicars General, I am reversing my directive from last week and asking that no parking lot Masses be held going forward.

Soon, we will emerge from this crisis and our people will return to our parishes where we will again be together to celebrate the Eucharist as a Catholic family.

With the assurance of prayers during this joyous season of Easter, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki
Archbishop of Milwaukee