



My Dearest Flock of the Good Shepherd,

May Peace and Blessings of the Risen Christ be with all of you.

I hope you are all well. I am writing this message first of all to express my deep gratitude to all of you for your continuous loving support for our parish in this time of difficulty. We pray that this pandemic would end soon so we may get back to our normal routine of worshiping and praising our Lord in his church.

Secondly, I would like to inform you about the cutting short of our staff to keep the church running. As you all know, due to the Covid-19, church has been shut down. Our main income to run the church and pay for the staff salaries comes from the Sunday collections. Masses have been canceled. Our collections have been down badly. With the unstable situation of the Covid 19, we do not know when we are able to get back to our normal routine. Therefore, I had several meetings with core members of the pastoral and financial council. After consulting the Human Resources of the Diocese who told us that in order for our parish to survive this virus outbreak, we needed to cut down our expenses by letting go of some of our staff, those who have worked in the areas which are completely shutdown by the coronavirus as such Faith Formation, Liturgy and Music Departments; Cleaning and Maintenance positions. The change is effective on May 1st, 2020.

This is the hardest and heart breaking decision for me. I have been a priest for almost seven years. I never thought that I would have to lay off my staff whom I consider as my brothers and sisters, my friends, my coworkers in the Lord's vineyard. It is just so sad to let them go! I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our staff who are leaving us. We thank you for your dedicated services to our church for many years. You have brought such a great impact and growth to our Good Shepherd family with your labor of love and care. We owe you a BIG THANK YOU. May God continue to pour out his grace upon you and your family. May he keep you well and safe.

My dear parishioners, due to the cutting short of the staff for survival, our remaining staff will try our best to fill in the shortage to keep the church moving forward. So we do ask for your understanding and patience. The diocese has recommended us to use volunteers to fill in the gap at this time. We are so blessed that we have lots of dedicated volunteers in our parish. I believe with God's help, we can together go through these tough times.

May the Risen Christ save all who have died; may He heal the sick; may He protect us all.

Blessings,

Fr. Thi Hoang

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