



March 31, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If you recall, when I was first appointed pastor back in 2013, I promised that I would strive to be as transparent and accountable as possible and good steward of all your gifts.

As you can imagine, the current crisis has taken its toll in so many ways on our parish. As pastor, I have done my best to strengthen the bonds of fellowship and to maintain, to the best of our ability, our ministries and activities. But the mandated closure and the very fact that we can no longer gather together as a worshipping community (in the regular sense) has impacted our parish, especially our financial position. I am so grateful to all those who have continued financially to support our parish- THANK YOU!

Today, the Parish Business Manager and I, in consultation with heads of ministry, had to make some difficult decisions regarding our many employees. We had hoped that with our limited parish savings we might be able to weather this storm and not have to lay off any employees or to reduce their current hours. Alas, we all know that this crisis has no end date and our savings are not infinite, so we had to make those initial difficult decisions now.

As of today, we have laid off several members of our Ministry Team and Staff in order to reduce parish overheads and try to ensure that our savings and your continued Sunday giving will last the course and allow us to preserve the financial health of our parish. Our aim is to preserve as much of our ministry as possible and to be ready to open up again once the current crisis has passed.

I know you will share with me the disappointment and sadness of having to make these decisions, but as I have said before we will get through this- we have hope and we have the Lord on our side.

So, this email is simply to keep you up to date on the current financial situation relating to our parish family. I know you will hear lots of comments and even critiques of these decisions, especially as they impact on particular ministries, but please be assured these decisions were not taken lightly and were taken after much reflection and prayer.

If you can help ease our current financial situation, please go to our online giving link at: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/stfrancisannarbor/>

Yours in Christ.

*Fr. James*

Fr. James Conlon, pastor