Dear Parishioners,

I want to once again thank you for all you are doing during this time. Many of you have made masks, donated food, written letters, prayed together online and in private, watched the Mass and the pastor reflections, and much more. Most of you have continued to support the parish financially and this will enable us to be ready when we finally can open our doors. Recently we dropped off food at the Saint Blasé Food pantry and they were very grateful. I am including a photo taken of the event below.

I hesitate to ask for more but I received a desperate plea from Father Don Bosco. I am including part of his letter now.

Dear Fr. Mike,

Greetings from Don. I am doing well by the grace of God. I do watch your Masses and video messages and come to know about the situation at our parish.

As you are aware, we also have been affected by Covid – 19. Our government was forced to take the drastic step of a nationwide lock down starting on February 24, 2020. Since then my office has been closed. So I came home to be with my parents during these days of lock down. It’s great blessing for me to spend some time with my parents and family.

After 10 days of lock down, I saw the struggle of the people even for their daily meals. The majority of people in and around of my village are daily wagers. The nationwide lock down has disrupted their daily income. So along with some interested youngsters and village leaders, we took the initiative of looking for some local resources
to feed these poor families during this epidemic. To our surprise, we did reach out and distribute around 500 food kits for the affected vulnerable communities.

The food kits contain: Rice – 15 Kg, Toordhal – 2 Kg, Oil – 2 Ltr, Sugar – 2 Kg, Salt – 1 Kg, Garam Masala – 500 g, Cookies – 10 Pkg, and 1 Pack of Spices. Each food kit costs $15. We distribute one or two food kits according to the number of members in the family.

Under the current increase in infections and escalating death rates, the government has extended the lock down until May 03rd and if there is a need they may also extend the lock down again. So we would like to continue to distribute the food kits. There are more families who are waiting for this food kits. There is a pressing need to look for some external resources to feed these families.

Therefore, I thought of requesting you to extend your loving and kind support with your prayers and if possible with monitory help by approaching our generous parishioners to feed these poor families.

Thank you so much for your support! Kindly find the attachment for some pictures of our initiative we took last week to reach out these poor families.

Peace
Fr. Don

If you wish to make a donation on behalf of Father Don’s ministry, you can do so by writing a check to Our Lady of the Woods with a note that this is for Father Don. I will transfer all money by the end of the week.

This Wednesday my broadcast will be directed to the young people of Our Lady of the Woods. I have received some questions that they have and so would like to answer
these and also speak about the Coronavirus in ways that young people can understand. It is my intention to have this online no later than 10:00 on Wednesday.

A few weeks ago I mentioned the five groupings the Cardinal Cupich asked us to pray for daily. These include those sick with coronavirus, those who care for them, those who lead us, the larger world community, and those who die each day. I would add another group. We have many individuals and families who are struggling either personally or financially. Many are not getting paid. Others own businesses that are taking a significant financial loss. Still others are alone and isolated. We need to pray for our own parish community as well.

Finally, this is Divine Mercy Sunday. Like Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday it is being celebrated somewhat quietly. The heart of the message of Divine Mercy is that Jesus loves us and seeks us to return to him. Let us prayer for a renewal of our relationship with him, who is the source of grace and mercy, in these challenging days.

In Christ,

Father Mike