

March 19, 2020

I've neglected to say in the last few days that Catholics can profitably make a "spiritual Communion" when unable to receive sacramentally. You can make up your words, or use a formula, such as this one (which I'm cribbing from EWTN): *My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.* The last phrase is an allusion to the priest's secret prayer before receiving Holy Communion: *et fac me semper inhaerere mandantis, et a te numquam separari permittas*, make me ever cling to your commandments, and never let me be parted from you.

Also, I am remiss in pointing out virtual opportunities for Mass, both televised and online—many of them livestreamed from Louisville parishes, as well as EWTN's daily Mass (which airs more than once daily), and Bishop Robert Barron's livestreamed Mass. People have asked whether we'll be livestreaming from here: not now, but perhaps later. That's all I can say for now.

I talked recently with the Provincial, Fr. Letoile (he's been calling all the pastors and seeing what challenges we're facing). He mentioned that times like these can be filled with un-looked for graces, shafts of light from God. He mentioned seeing a photo of a little girl (probably 4 years old) watching Mass at home; at the moment of the consecration of the chalice this tiny believer bowed as reverently and with as much awe as any Carmelite nun. With things like that happening, things aren't so bad.

The Dominican community at SLB will be praying the Rosary with the Pope shortly, at 4 p.m. (we saved him a seat).

Fr. Peter, O.P.