

Assessment for Parish and Community Needs and Resources

for use in an emergency such as the coronavirus pandemic

Purpose

- To check in and connect with each family/individual to assure them of the Church's care.
- To identify specific needs that parishioners and their neighbors are experiencing.
- To identify resources that parishioners are able to contribute to meet others' needs.
- To gather and share prayer requests.
- To allow the priest to have a clear sense of how the parishioners are managing this crisis.
- To give opportunities for everyone to contribute something to help others.

Plan

- Pull together an implementation team, including:
 - People in the parish who "know everyone," who are available to make phone calls, text, and/or send cards.
 - People in the parish who can organize and implement a system of tracking and matching needs and resources.
- Decide on and develop strategies to :
 - Contact everyone in the parish on a regular basis.
 - Invite members to share needs and resources.
 - Make connections between needs and resources.
 - Follow up to ensure that needs are being met and resources are being used.
 - Share prayer requests with those willing to pray.

Sample phone script and actions (this is a starting point, feel free to adapt; can also be used for texting/messaging)

1. Introduction: "Hi, this is _____ from _____. I'm calling on behalf of the Church to check in and see how you (and your family) are doing." [Take notes, especially about specific needs.]
2. In the conversation so far, if these questions are not covered, ask:
 - a. "Have you been able to follow along with the streaming video services?" If not, "Do you have internet access and would you like someone to help you set up the streaming services so you can watch?" [Write down responses.]
 - b. "Is anyone in your household sick?" [Write down names and illnesses or symptoms.]

- c. “Has anyone in the household’s income been reduced or uncertain due to the shutdown?” [Write down the names and situations.]
 - d. “Are there any immediate needs, such as food, supplies, medicine, transportation, etc.?” [Write down the needs.]
 - e. “Are there neighbors or others who you are concerned about, and needs that you are aware of that our parish might be able to meet?” [Write down responses.]
 - f. “Do you have anything else that we can pray about with you?” [Write down requests.]
 - g. (If there are names and needs you’ve written down): “May I share these with Fr. _____ and the parish?” [Offer to use a pseudonym to keep confidentiality or privacy.] [Indicate yes or no.]
3. “As other needs arise, please don’t hesitate to contact the Church Office (at _____ or via the contact form at the website). There are plenty of people who are willing and able to help out. We’re all in this together.”
 4. “As we determine the needs of others in the parish and community, do you have any time or resources to contribute?” *Add some examples of known resources, such as time to pray for the list that is being compiled, time to write encouraging cards to shut-ins, or ability to pick up and drop off groceries for someone.* [Write down availability.]
 5. “Can I pray with you now?” [If yes, pray together over the phone, including the names of those mentioned above. If you like, you can use the prayers at the end of this document.]
 6. “Thank you for your time. I will pass along the information you shared. Let’s keep in touch.”

[Report this information according to the steps that have been developed.]

Prayers in Time of Trouble

Lord of the Powers be with us, for in times of distress we have no other help but You.
Lord of the Powers, have mercy on us.

Prayers in Time of Need

Almighty God, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, come to my help and deliver me from this difficulty that besets me. I believe Lord, that all trials of life are under Your care and that all things work for the good of those who love You. Take away from me fear, anxiety and distress. Help me to face and endure my difficulty with faith, courage and wisdom. Grant that this trial may bring me closer to You for You are my rock and refuge, my comfort and hope, my delight and joy. I trust in Your love and compassion. Blessed is Your name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

O God, our help in time of need, Who are just and merciful, and Who inclines to the supplications of His people. Look down upon me and have mercy on me and deliver me from the trouble that now besets me. Deal with us not according to our iniquities, but according to Your manifold mercies, for we are the works of Your hands, and You know our weaknesses. I pray to you to grant me Your divine helping grace, and endow me with patience and strength to endure my hardships with complete submission to Your Will. Only You know our misery and sufferings, and to You, our only hope and refuge, I flee for relief and comfort, trusting in Your infinite love and compassion, that in due time, when You know best, You will deliver me from this trouble, and turn my distress into comfort. We then shall rejoice in Your mercy, and exalt and praise Your Holy Name, O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, both now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen

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