

**ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI** Office of the Archbishop

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

Thus far, 2020 has proven to be unique and quite challenging! The COVID-19 pandemic has altered our way of life. We have had to face illness, separation, anxiety and even loss of loved ones. Some of us have suffered economically and I know many who lost their livelihood. It has been a difficult time for everyone! Lent and Easter were particularly painful for me, and I know for you as well, as we were unable to come together to worship during the most solemn days of our liturgical year; I am very grateful that we have been able to resume the public celebration of Masses in all our parishes, while following CDC precautions of remaining socially distant, wearing masks and frequently washing our hands.

As the world continues to face the health and economic effects of the pandemic, we are forced to plan even while we face a future that is still very much uncertain. As you can imagine, one of the results of the "lock down" when we could not gather publicly to worship, was the loss of parish revenue. Our parishes rely on the offertory collection to fulfill the Church's mission – which necessarily involves paying bills such as salaries, utilities, maintenance and running essential programs. Your generosity to your parish is needed now more than ever. Whether you gave electronically online or sent your weekly envelope to the parish, your pastor and I are deeply grateful.

Your pastor and parish leadership will soon be updating you on how the parish fared during these last several months. And while you may have your own financial challenges, I ask you to keep in mind the needs of your parish.

- In additional to your regular support, please consider making a one-time gift to help recover lost offertory.
- Renew or increase your Stewardship Pledge for the coming year and if you have not made one before, consider doing so today.

Even if you cannot make a financial gift at this time, please make a gift of your prayers for your parish, for your pastor and for me.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski Archbishop of Miami

