



**Letter to the Catholic Faithful of the Diocese of Rockville Centre  
From Bishop John O. Barres  
Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 24, 2020**



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

In Saint John's Gospel this weekend, the Seventh Sunday of Easter, we proclaim that "Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you...'"

In reflecting on this passage, I immediately began to think about our priests in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, who glorify the Father by serving the faithful daily. These are enormously trying times for all of us, but our priests and pastors have risen to the occasion in so many creative ways. They serve the people of God through on-line Masses, blessing homes in their parishes, curbside adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and much more.

I am so grateful to each and every one of our priests who are working tirelessly to serve the people in their parishes while they are helping grieving families and tending to the sick. However, as they are doing all of this, we are not able to gather our congregations on weekends and therefore, are not receiving the offertory collections that are so very important to the financial health of our parishes.

Appreciating the anxieties you are facing, we urge you to please continue supporting your parish with weekly offertory donations. These funds are critical for the continued operation of your parish. Every day, your parish provides for the pastoral and spiritual care of its parishioners. It is there in the happiest moments in your life - weddings, baptisms, first Communions - and is a source of comfort during the most challenging times such as our current crisis or the death of a loved one. There are senior services, food pantries, youth ministries, schools, and on-going religious education. All of this depends on you! We must also prepare to fully reemerge when the crisis is over and we are able to join together again as the Body of Christ. We ask that you please consider making the sacrifice, at a minimum, to continue your current weekly level of support.

Please know that you and your family are remembered in my daily prayers and Masses.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre