

March 12, 2020

Dear Newman community,

We just got word that the San Diego County Emergency Site posted the following notice:

“According to the County of San Diego’s Health and Human Services Agency, effective immediately all gatherings of more than 250 people are directed to be postponed or cancelled across the county. This includes concerts, conferences, and professional, college, and school sporting events. Smaller events can proceed only if organizers can implement social distancing of six feet between participants.

Additionally, the Public Health Officer issued a directive to implement aggressive visitor restrictions for the following: hospitals providing acute, in-patient care; long-term care facilities; skilled nursing facilities; and other residential facilities. These restrictions will remain in effect at least through the end of March.”

Because of the County Health Agency’s directive, and out of concern for the health of our community, we are going to suspend both the 12:30 and the 6:30 Masses this Sunday, March 15 and next Sunday, March 22.

As pastor, I am giving a dispensation from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass this weekend and next. In place of the Sunday Mass obligation, I would ask that you pray over the readings, and offer your prayers for all those affected by this virus and other health issues.

In addition to this, we are going to suspend daily Mass at 12:10 and 5:30, and all on-campus Newman events for the next two weeks effective immediately. This includes canceling the Tijuana Immersion Trip scheduled for March 22-25. Those of you participating in the Lenten Retreat will be given more information at tonight’s meeting.

Furthermore, as those of you who are signed up already know, the Catholic Travel Centre has recommended that we reschedule the Holy Land Pilgrimage. We have canceled the Pilgrimage for this year and hope to have it at the same time next year.

Good Sam has also decided to suspend its services this weekend, so the church and Roetter Hall will be closed the next two weekends.

I’m sure that the Diocese will be coming out with a statement soon, and we will update you as soon as we hear from the Bishop.

In the meantime, let’s continue to pray for each other and for all those affected by the virus.

Sincerely,  
Boom Martinez, SJ