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April 26, 2020

It is hard to believe that this is our seventh Sunday without celebrating the Eucharist together.

Listening to today's Gospel from St. Luke, we may be surprised to learn that His Disciples could walk and talk with Him, but not recognize Jesus while on the road to Emmaus. Their eyes only opened and they finally recognized Jesus once they sat down with Him at the table and He took bread, said the blessing, broke it and gave it to them. This is how important the Eucharist is, and I know many of you are missing Mass so much because it is during the Eucharist when we realize that Jesus is truly present.

To those who are either sending or dropping off donations, I want to thank you for your generosity from the bottom of my heart. Please keep in your prayers those in our parish family who are struggling during these very trying times.

I hope that you are trying to fill your days in productive ways. Many days before this started, I would struggle with finishing my own prayers – my breviary, the rosary, and Divine Mercy Chaplet, along with Mass. But, now I cannot say that I do not have the time. And, honestly, I can say that when I finish my prayers for the day, it gives me a real sense of peace. I hope that you are trying to fill your days with what is most essential now – prayer. For those who are struggling, I would encourage you to still focus on your prayer life. This is what will carry you through these difficult days.

I would also like to thank all of you for your prayers for my health. I am feeling better than I was, and I believe this is because of the power of prayer. I am not 100 percent yet, but I don't have to take as much pain medicine as I did before.

Because of the difficulty I have had sleeping through the night for the last six weeks, I started calling my mother, who is home in Poland, at 5:00 am every day, our time. I recognize that during this period, it feels as though I've talked with her more now than I did over the last 25 years, and it is very heartwarming, to say the least. She is now expecting and looking forward to my call every day. I never had time before, and now I realize that when this is over, I need to make time to talk to her much more than I had in the past. I am sharing this with you with the hope that you too have had a similar experience with someone in your life, or that maybe you can find something that you didn't have the time to do before. And, hopefully, whatever you do will bring a new joy to your heart.

May God bless you, protect you and keep you healthy.

*Fr. Slawek*