

Topic: Reconciliation - is it Possible During the Covid-19 Crisis?

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Patrick:

3/23/2020

As we move the season of Lent in this unprecedented way **due to the pandemic of Corona Virus**, some of you have shared your concerns about **not being able to visit a priest to go to Confession**. You have shared that you intended to go to our **Lemont Parish Reconciliation Gathering**, but now that doesn't seem to be a reality. You have voiced your concerns to me that should you not be able to confess and receive absolution from a priest, is it possible to be "OK" with God; in right relationship with Him, or to put it in more traditional language, "in a state of grace"?

I would like to respond to your concerns by "**taking a play**" out of **Pope Francis' great pastoral playbook** as he leads and guides us through these challenging times as the **great teacher and pastor, I believe him to be.**

In a daily homily on March 20th, our Holy Father shared this wisdom: "If you don't find a priest to go to confession during this time, speak to God directly. **He is your heavenly Father.**"

The Pope continued his thoughts by sharing: "Just tell God the truth! Share with Him that you did this, that, and the other thing. Ask Him, your Father, to give you pardon; **ask forgiveness of Him with all your heart.**" Follow this up with an act of contrition or a prayer of sorrow from your heart. When you get the chance and we return to some "normal way of life" again, then, go to confession. But know that your sharings from the heart will return you to God's grace immediately. **By speaking to God directly, His love for us unconditionally makes us all "OK" in His eyes.**

In times of crisis, the **Catechism of the Catholic Church, Her teaching**, clearly says that "**one can draw near to God's forgiveness, even without a priest at hand.**"

I do hope this reflection on Pope Francis' wisdom and the Church's teaching, brings you peace and comfort during these stressful times. **St. Patrick... pray for us!**

On the journey towards forgiveness with you,

Fr. Kurt Boras, Pastor

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