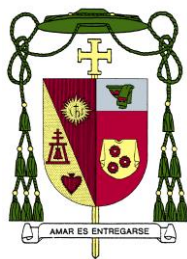


DIocese of San Bernardino



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 2, 2020

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION, HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE HEALTHCARE
PROFESSIONALS FROM THE BISHOP OF THE SAN BERNARDINO DIOCESE,
THE MOST REVEREND GERALD R. BARNES

During this time of uncertainty and anxiety, when the world is besieged with pain, fear, worries and the loss of beloved ones to COVID-19, a time when the groanings of those dying from medical challenges fill the healthcare facilities, tears freely flowing down faces of the bereaved, family members huddling together in fear for their lives, people helplessly wondering who the next victim will be, you, the healthcare providers remain at your duty posts to accompany, care and assist in these scary and at times, hopeless circumstances.

For these and many more, I am profoundly grateful to all of you for the work you do. You remain compassionate, kind and present to the sick and dying. I know many of you go beyond the call of duty to bring comfort and relief to those who are dying, lonely and in need of solace. You are the faces of Jesus to the sick and dying, sharing the love of God and spreading the good news of God's kingdom without words but through your actions.

As COVID-19 continues to spread, causing untold fear, pain and sorrow to so many people in our Country, and in the whole world, I know the healthcare workers are there in the frontline, fighting this battle with the novel Corona virus, even at the risk to their own lives. Many of you have been infected because you remain in the frontline assisting other people, to save their lives, many of you who are healthy today also fear for your own lives. I know this could pose a huge mental health challenge to all of you because we know, you too are human, just like anyone else.

As the Chief Shepherd of the Diocese of San Bernardino and in prayerful union with the people of this diocese, I want to assure you of our prayers for you. I need you to know that we appreciate your efforts, sacrifices and courage while you are out there taking care of the sick and dying.

I commend you all to the protection of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and St. Bernadine of Sienna, the patroness and patron saint of the Diocese of San Bernardino. May our Almighty God of mercy and love continue to bless and provide for all your needs.

Yours in Christ,

Gerald R. Barnes

Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes
Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino