

September 1, 2020

Dear friend of Santa Clara University,

With God's help, we continue to journey with the Lord through these very difficult times as we deal with a pandemic, wildfires, and racism in our society. Throughout this journey, our Loving God supports us both with divine grace and through the Word we hear and on which we reflect.

Since the moment that public Masses were suspended in mid-March throughout the United States and we began to "shelter in place," the SCU Campus Ministry team has worked to provide weekly spiritual nourishment via a 10am Zoom Mass. This shift was a learning experience for members of the Campus Ministry staff and for participants as well. We have worked hard to offer an uplifting liturgical experience, to recruit volunteers near and far, to coordinate liturgical ministries, and this was done with limited resources and limited expertise with this technology. As some of you realize, technical glitches did occur.

The situation is different now than it was in March. Public Masses are now permitted in the San Jose Diocese and elsewhere. With Greg Schultz moving on from the position this summer, we do not currently have a Campus Minister for Liturgy and Music. Some students will be present in the residence halls and in housing surrounding the campus. The Campus Ministry team must now shift its focus to welcoming new students and to ministering to returning students, both remotely and on-site.

Given various constraints, we are still committed to supporting a live-streamed 10am Mass on Sundays in addition to providing other offerings for students. However, we must acknowledge that the experience of the 10am Mass may be different this fall. For example, recorded music may need to be used more often and, for some Sundays, especially during September, there may not be the possibility of having any music during the liturgy except the call to worship.

We hope that you understand the challenges we face and the priorities that are incumbent on our limited resources.

We also hope to provide the opportunity for you to "socialize" with each other remotely on Sundays via Zoom for those who wish.

Note that the Zoom link that has been used for the 10am Mass during the summer will continue to be active until the end of September.

Enjoy the upcoming Labor Day weekend, and please continue to pray for us as we do for you.

Dennis Smolarski, S.J.
Director, Campus Ministry