Lo, the great PLAN to reopen our parishes has arrived...all 46 pages of it. The directives and requirements that need to be met in order to once again celebrate the Mass and the other Sacraments are exceedingly detailed and onerous. Yet, at least it’s a glimmer of light that portends that at some point we will be able to hold Mass with the people at St. Liborius and St. Mary. In order to reopen our parishes, I will be needing your help and assistance. In the days to come, I will be asking for volunteers and assistance to carry out the directives. Please help out to the best of your ability. I tell you truly that without the assistance of the people of St. Liborius and St. Mary our churches will not be able to reopen for Mass when the ban on gatherings of ten or more people is lifted.

I want to sketch out you what will be required to meet the directives placed upon us for reopening the church:

- The seating capacity of the church will be reduced. I anticipate no more than 125 people in the church for any one Mass at either St. Liborius or St. Mary. There will be a reservation/ticketing system set up to sign up for Mass.
- Persons who are sick from any cause or suffering from any condition that creates an enhanced risk of contracting CORVID-19 should not attend Mass. The dispensation from attending Sunday Mass will remain in effect for the foreseeable future.
- Persons entering the church must bring a mask and wear it at all times while inside the church.
- Persons will need to be mindful of the requirement to maintain social distancing between persons of different households.
- The church will need to be thoroughly cleaned after every Mass or any other event held in the church.

Volunteers will be needed to assist in preparing the church before every Mass and cleaning the church after every Mass. There are pages of directions to follow in terms of how the church is to be prepared prior to Mass and cleaned after Mass.

There is no time frame at the moment for restarting Mass with the people. Currently, we are limited by the order of the Governor to gatherings of ten persons or fewer. Under these conditions there will not be public Mass. We must wait until more than ten people can be gathered for Mass before restarting public Mass. In the meantime, we can prepare so that when we are able to hold Masses with the people again, we will be ready to do so immediately.

In the future I will be sending out via Flocknotes, the parish websites, and the bulletin notices that describe in further detail the requirements that we need to meet, the changes inside the church that need to be done, and the procedures that everyone will need to follow while attending Mass or other sacraments at St. Liborius or St. Mary.
In other news, in cooperation with Mother Teresa Catholic Academy, St. Liborius and St. Mary Parishes have purchased the necessary equipment to record and livestream Masses and other church and school events. Since the seating capacity of the parishes will be reduced and persons who are particularly vulnerable to the sickness are being asked not to attend Mass the need for live streaming is likely to stay with us for a long time to come. MTCA will also be able to use the equipment to live stream school events that family members of students may not be able to attend. Hopefully, Sunday Mass will go live by the end of the month of May.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has continued to financially support both St. Mary and St. Liborius during this time. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Still, I must point out that the contributions received since the stay-at-home order began have been about 60 percent of the norm for the time period. I ask you to please continue to support your local parish to the best of your ability.