Notes from your Pastor

The Coronavirus experience has baffled many and angered others. Some hint that it may have been a sabotage yet others think it is a money-making scheme and until our health care officials develop a vaccine, we will be miserable. Whatever group we fit into, support or paradigm, we are forced to choose powerlessness; unable to control and are helpless. But, as we surrender, we must keep hope alive. For hopelessness means we give up and surrender.

In one of our opening prayers in ordinary time, we prayed, *"O Heavenly Father, You base Your sacred law upon You and our neighbor. With the Coronavirus we depend on you and our neighbor."* Our hope lies in our God, the leadership, the vision and creativity of those in the medical and research field, finally we depend on our neighbor for support and for social - distancing, (now many are saying social compassion)! At this time, it seems more than any other time in American history. These two are critical; as responsible mature adults let all of us do our part.

During this pandemic, we realize once again how important prayer is. Now we have the opportunity to take into consideration the psalm, *"Be Still and Know I am your God"!* As we began the sacred season of Lent, on Ash Wednesday, in his gospel Mathew also reminds us how important prayer is and how we should pray, focusing on our attitude, one that is unselfish. In prayer, we echo our aches to the Lord, but are aware we have no control of the answer. If you read today's gospel, Jesus makes his own decision when he will visit the family.

With our neighbor, all of us have to make sacrifices, namely by depending on and cooperating with each other so that all of us fulfill in a responsible way the social contract that we are asked to put into place in our daily lives at this particular time in the history of our country. At this time as we confront this invisible monster on the medical level and social level, it depends on each one of us, once links are broken and continue to break down, we all lose and there are no winners.