

## **OFFERING THE MINISTRY OF PRESENCE TO OTHERS**

### ***What can you do to show the love of God to others?***

As Catholics, we have the privilege and the opportunity to put our faith in action and to manifest the love of Christ more than ever for our brothers and sisters in the family of God during these difficult times, even when we are going out less and staying at home more. Here are some suggestions and ideas on how you might reach out to others, spend your time profitably, make a difference in their lives, demonstrate the compassionate love of God.

- ❖ Make phone calls to family members, parishioners, neighbors, and friends who are homebound, hospitalized, in nursing homes or other care facilities to walk with them in spirit and assure them they are not alone.
- ❖ Offer to pray over the phone with them, sharing Scripture and the Spiritual Communion prayer.
- ❖ Offer to go grocery shopping, to pick up a meal, or go to the pharmacy for a senior or for others who cannot get out or must stay at home because they are vulnerable or at risk to contract the virus.
- ❖ Insure that their pets have food and medications that are needed.
- ❖ Increase giving to local foodbanks, Catholic Community Services, St. Vincent de Paul, and other charitable organizations to help feed the homeless, the poor, families whose breadwinners have been furloughed, and children who may not be getting meals since the schools were closed.
- ❖ Consider donating blood or plasma which are in critical short supply.
- ❖ Purchase gas cards for our local nursing home or hospital health care providers and mail them to the facilities as a thank you gift from our parish community.
- ❖ Offer to give face masks and respirators that you have purchased to these facilities, which are in short supply, to protect our doctors, nurses, health care providers and first responders, and that enables them to do their work.