

Transcript of Bishop Persico's Message to Those Grieving the Loss of a Loved One during COVID-19 2020

Hello and thank you for taking a few minutes to watch this video.

As your Bishop, I wanted to reach out to those of you who are feeling the impact of my decision to suspend Mass in the Diocese of Erie. I am especially concerned for those of you who are preparing to receive sacraments, or perhaps you are a parent or a grandparent of someone who is preparing to receive a sacrament. This was one of the hardest decisions I have ever made. I know it's difficult to wrestle with the emotions that come as a result of this decision. Even when we know it is the best way to protect everyone in the community.

I want to speak to those of you who are grieving the loss of a loved one and finding yourself planning a funeral. During this unusual moment in our world and in the life of the church, I know how much we depend on being surrounded by people to support us in prayer. As a church, we feel the pain with you. Not only did you lose a loved one, but you are not able to have the visual reminder of the whole church standing with you during Mass.

Be assured we are still with you. We are here very much present to you in prayer. God has asked a great deal of you at this moment. He also will provide the grace and solace you need.

God bless you.