

# Transcript of Bishop Persico's Message to Confirmation Candidates and Those in RCIA 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 students who are preparing for Confirmation and for those of you who are involved with RCIA. You are in a situation that directly mirrors what the first Pentecost confirmation was like. People were gathered together. They felt anxious. They didn't know what was going on. They had to wait. They didn't really know when Jesus's promised to send the Holy Spirit would be fulfilled, but then when the Holy Spirit did come it transformed the whole world. Your situation is a true experience of preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the sacrament will come.

Remember that waiting is not passive it is an active time. Visit our website for ideas of what you can do to continue for preparation while you wait, including ways to pray and virtual faith sharing community.

Thank you for listening to this message, and be assured that I am praying for you every day until you receive your sacrament. God bless you.