

Transcript of Bishop Persico's Message to Those with Wedding Plans 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.

For those of you whose wedding plans are being disrupted, there is no way you could have imagined you would find yourself in this situation. What a challenging time this is for you. You've been dreaming of your wedding day, and we've shared in those dreams with you. Suddenly everything has changed. You may not even have all of the information you need to adjust your plans. As a church, there's not much we can do to make it better, but I want to say that we're in it with you.

Honestly, this is a significant test. Having to experience a challenge just when you should be focusing on such a happy moment. I encourage you to trust God. allow this trial to strengthen the foundation for your life as a married couple. Take advantage of the time to invest in each other.

The love you have for your fiancé cannot be contained at this moment. The whole world very much needs to see that love. What better sign of hope is there than a couple preparing to commit to marriage?

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.