



Office of the General Secretary

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Bishops

From: Reverend Monsignor J. Brian Bransfield, General Secretary *JB*

Date: April 3, 2020

Subject: CNS Issue Alert: Coronavirus Stories #2

Your Eminence / Your Excellency,

I take this opportunity to convey to you the enclosed memorandum of James R. Rogers, Communications Officer and Greg Erlandson, Director, Catholic News Service, which shares five stories and a video focusing on different aspects of the current pandemic and the Church's response.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this memorandum.



Department of Communications

3211 FOURTH STREET NE · WASHINGTON DC 20017 · 202-541-3200 · FAX 202-541-3173

April 3, 2020

TO: All Bishops

FROM: James L. Rogers, Chief Communications Officer
Greg Erlandson, Director, Catholic News Service

Re: ***CNS Issue Alert: Coronavirus Stories #2***

Your Eminence/Excellency:

In this *Issue Alert*, Catholic News Service and the USCCB's Department of Communications are sharing with you five stories and a video focusing on different aspects of the current pandemic and the Church's response. The stories range from the saints the Church has turned to in times of plague to the neediest in our society who we must not forget.

Pope Francis has praised the news media for its important role during this crisis: "Today, I would like us to pray for all those who work in the media, who work to communicate so that people don't find themselves so isolated, for the education of children, for information to help endure this time of isolation," the Pope said April 1.

At Catholic News Service we join with our diocesan media partners in seeking to inform, inspire and reassure our readers, your people, during this time of anxiety and confusion.

We are happy to offer the enclosed CNS digital content package for free editorial use in diocesan/archdiocesan websites, communication departments, social media and publications. This offer of free use is for every diocese, whether or not it is a client of Catholic News Service.

If you have other story suggestions or further questions regarding this *CNS Issue Alert*, please contact Greg Erlandson directly at gerlandson@catholicnews.com.



Issue Alert!

Free Catholic News Service
Multimedia Package for Bishops



Together in Christ: CNS Responds to the Coronavirus #2

At a time when society is reeling from the Coronavirus pandemic, the Church and its media – print, web, social, radio and television – are helping its people face this unprecedented challenge. Pope Francis acknowledged the important role that is being played by diocesan and national media in his April 1 homily “Today, I would like us to pray for all those who work in the media, who work to communicate so that people don’t find themselves so isolated, ... for information to help endure this time of isolation.”

Catholic News Service is covering all aspects of the crisis, and we will continue to do so for as long as needed. What follows are a selection of stories from this week meant to inform, inspire and reassure.

This complimentary CNS news package is being offered to all diocesan digital and print media – whether or not they are subscribers to CNS – for use on their websites, social media and print publications.

<https://cnstopstories.com/2020/04/02/during-plague-catholic-church-called-on-saints-for-help-healing/> Saints the Church has prayed to during times of plague and disease. It is a long list!

<https://cnstopstories.com/2020/04/03/prisons-passion-via-crucis-meditations-reflect-on-aftermath-of-crime/> Good Friday’s Way of the Cross written for Pope Francis by prisoners, victims and their families is a powerful reflection on suffering, grace and forgiveness.

<https://cnstopstories.com/2020/04/02/seitz-let-us-ask-our-savior-to-help-us-to-walk-with-us-in-these-times/#more-26757> Bishop Mark Seitz reflects on what the coronavirus pandemic might teach us about ourselves and our utter dependence on the Lord.

<https://cnstopstories.com/2020/04/01/pandemic-adds-increasing-burdens-on-immigrants-without-legal-status/#more-26714> The undocumented workers who clean hospitals, prepare our food and perform other important functions are without resources and fearful as the economy stalls.

<https://cnstopstories.com/2020/04/01/service-agencies-find-workarounds-for-virus-mandated-restrictions/> Catholic service agencies are finding creative ways to help people during this time of unemployment and disease, remembering those most likely to be forgotten and overlooked.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WgCh3VeVDI&feature=youtu.be> A beautiful CNS video presenting the widely acclaimed and spiritually powerful Urbi et Orbi blessing by Pope Francis on March 27.

Catholic News Service serves the Church by informing and forming the Catholic faithful. If you would like to subscribe to any of CNS’s many services—news, columns, photos and more—please contact Mary McDonald at mmcdonald@usccb.org