

PRINCE ALBERT DIOCESAN COUNCIL
Spiritual Development Communiqué #7. March 2020
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“Continue to watch over all who are sick as well as those who care for them and give wisdom to all who are seeking a cure.” Bishop Douglas J. Lucia

We began this year with great joy and great plans never anticipating the situation we now find ourselves in with the corona virus and all the disruption it entails. As I compose this communiqué, I trust that each one of you is well and using the suggested safeguards / precautions to protect yourselves and those around you from the corona virus.

This is an opportune time to pray: St. Corona: Pray for us! The following message is taken from thecatholicsun.com/st-corona-pray-for-us/ It was written by Renee K. Gadoua.

“Some Catholics seeking spiritual solace during the corona virus pandemic are turning to the 2nd century St. Corona (d. C. 170) as patron saint of plagues and epidemics. St. Corona and St. Victor, a soldier who may have been her husband, were tortured and killed around 170 at the order of a Roman judge, according to an account that dates to the 4th century. Their feast day is May 14, according to the Roman Martyrology, the Catholic Church’s official list of recognized saints and people who have been beatified. As Corona was dying, she “saw two crowns falling from Heaven, one for Victor, the other for herself,” the martyrology says.

Corona viruses are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Corona means “crown” in Latin. While several Catholic publications in recent days have connected St. Corona to the corona virus outbreak, sources including Catholic Online identify her as patron saint of gambling. It’s unclear when people began associating St. Corona with plagues, given limited first-hand records of early saints. Sts. Victor and Corona were recognized as saints before the Catholic Church standardized its canonization process in the 10th century.

But St. Corona’s name, the reference to crowns in the martyrology, and accounts of her suffering seem to provide reasonable justification to call on her intercession during today’s unprecedented global health crisis.

Other saints affiliated with illness or difficult times include:

- *St. Jude: Patron of lost causes*
 - *St. Anthony of Egypt: Patron of people affected by skin diseases or infectious diseases*
 - *St. Edmund: Patron for victims of pandemics*
 - *The Fourteen Holy Helpers: Includes St. Blaise, St. Christopher, and St. Margaret, patrons of plague and sudden death, beginning with the Black Death (bubonic plague) during the 14th century*
- And don’t forget St. Marianne Cope (1838-1918), the Franciscan leader who lived and ministered in the diocese and who was canonized in 2012, the 11th American named a Catholic saint. The patron*

saint of outcasts, she ministered to people with leprosy from 1883 to 1918 in Hawaii. Her constant mandate to patients and caregivers: Wash your hands."

Bishop Douglas J. Lucia has written a special prayer for an end to the corona virus pandemic:

"O Mary, full of grace, patroness of this nation and Mother of the Church. In this time of illness and worldwide need, we seek your intercession for the human family before your Son's throne of grace and mercy. We ask for strength in adversity, health in weakness, and comfort in sorrow. Help us, O Blessed Mother, to be filled with confidence and trust in the tender compassion of our God. Let us not be afraid, like our own Saint Marianne Cope, who entrusted her life and ministry among the outcasts of society into the care of our Divine Physician. Continue to watch over all who are sick as well as those who care for them and give wisdom to all who are seeking a cure. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen."

As we move towards the season of Easter, we are forced to look at how we treat others and ourselves. We must curb our selfish ways and think of others more than we might have in the past.

There are beautiful Easter prayers on the Internet. You can google Easter prayers, and look over the ones available. I plan to use one with my local council in person if the gathering bans are lifted and by e-mail if they are not lifted. You are welcome to use them too.

My prayer for you this Easter season is reflected in this quote: "Father, thank you for the renewal I have experienced during this holy season of Lent. Motivate me throughout the Easter season to continue to experience your grace."

Take care. God bless.