



Shrine of Saint Jude Thaddeus

Dominican Friars

April 10, 2020

Dear Friends of St. Jude,

The year 2020 has so far proven to be the most difficult for the American people since the time of the Great Depression and the Second World War. Besides the fear of the coronavirus and isolation, the markets have proved volatile and many people have now filed for unemployment. Parents at this time are especially concerned for the welfare of their young children. Equally, adult children are worried for the health of older parents.

It was precisely during such a time of crisis that the St. Jude Shrine was founded. The Shrine began in 1935 to be a beacon of hope and prayer for a country gripped by the Great Depression. The Shrine continues to be a source of comfort for many. Confidently we can invoke the intercession of St. Jude for the safety of our families as well as a deepening of trust in God. Thanks be to God, families do not have to face their challenges alone; they have the ultimate help in the grace of God. It is precisely during the most difficult moments that our faith and trust in God increases the most.

As I write this letter the San Francisco Bay Area counties, like many communities around the world, have continued to live under a “shelter in place” order for the purpose of limiting the spread of the coronavirus. We all hope our cities, commerce, and churches will be open before the observance of Mother’s and Father’s Day, but if not, we can still pray and the Dominican Friars continue to offer Masses for the intentions we receive.

I invite you to join us for a novena – nine days of prayer – for all mothers (May 2 - 10) and a novena for all fathers (June 13 - 21). Please use the form included in this mailing and return it to us to be placed on the St. Jude altar during the novenas. Feel free to include the names of all fathers and mothers, living and deceased. Also please consider including in the novena all of the spiritual fathers and mothers in your lives. We priests and religious need these prayers too in order to carry out our vocations!

Finally, let us all join St. Jude in praying for families during this crisis – for fathers and mothers in the most difficult situations. With God's grace ALL things are possible, and we have a valiant intercessor in St. Jude.

St. Jude, pray for all fathers and mothers, and for all who invoke thy aid.

Sincerely in Christ and St. Jude,

Fr. Vincent M. Kelber, O.P.
Director

