

12 Noon -- June 3, 2020

Sisters and Brothers,

At last, I have real news to report to the parish about my personal Covid status.

After refusals of my request for the Covid test by my personal physician, on both Monday and Tuesday mornings, yesterday the St. Charles Health Department finally arranged to test me without the requested doctor's approval.

I was tested this morning (Wednesday) at 9:00 AM; and by 11:30 AM the Department of Health called to report that the test was **negative** for Covid 19.

This means that I could not have infected those to whom I distributed Holy Communion or anointed in the Sacrament of Confirmation this past weekend.

A supervisor from the Department also informed me that from current scientific information a serious threat of infection would most often come from an extended encounter with an infected person of 5 to 10 minutes without any facial protection.

Therefore anyone who this past weekend received Holy Communion from Father D'Amico (who wore a face mask due to his cough & who had sanitized his fingers before Holy Communion) could also be judged free of serious danger of infection.

Certainly we all should be watchful of our own symptoms: a dry cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, muscle aches, headache, abdominal discomfort, nausea and vomiting etc.

The mandatory quarantine for Father D and I, as well as the closure of the Parish Office will remain in place at least until June 16, 2020.

Father D has been isolated in his suite in the rectory and has no direct contact with me.

He still has a cough--though it has lessened--and he has never yet registered a fever.

I myself have never manifested any symptoms.

Many thanks to all who have extended their support, in prayer, grocery runs, and offers to prepare meals for Father D and I.

Please continue to pray for everyone suffering from the pandemic, in its physical, spiritual, social and economic ramifications.

May God continue to protect and bless us all!

Fr. Bob Burkemper