

MINISTRY WHILE FLATTENING THE CURVE: PERSPECTIVE OF A DEACON

(AN INTERVIEW WITH DEACON ALEC SASSE)

What did it mean to you to have to leave your last year of priestly formation early?

For myself, the most powerful impact of this crisis is an invitation to abandon myself to God's Divine Providence more and more. There's a lot of uncertainty and fear in our world, but we need to hold on to the one certainty: God is with us.

I'm sure that God is going to use all of this to bring about great things. I think one of those things will be people in the Church being more willing and able to share the Gospel on the internet.

What is your reaction to the pandemic forcing the temporary cessation of public Masses?

Though having Masses suspended is incredibly difficult, one benefit is more and more people practicing a "spiritual communion," which has been held for centuries in the Church as a powerful practice. It would be great for people to practice it more and more even when public Masses resume.

One potential benefit I see to all of this is that it's pushing parishes to be creative and confident in their approach to evangelization. The world is highly dependent on technology, and I think it can be tempting to be afraid to try to evangelize through and with it. This whole event has given me the confidence to be creative and just "go for it."