



Office of the Bishop

Rosary Initiative Dedicating month of May to end the Pandemic

29 April 2021

Dear Pastors, Assoc. Pastors and Parishioners,

Greetings in the Lord! Happy Easter!

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis is asking Catholics from around the world to dedicate the Marian month of May to praying for an end to the pandemic. The theme for this initiative is based on the verse, *"The Church prayed fervently to God,"* from the Acts of the Apostles (12.5).

Thirty of the world's Catholic shrines dedicated to Mary will be involved in a special way in praying the rosary. Each day Vatican News will broadcast the recitation of the rosary at 6 pm Rome time from those shrines. For us, this means the daily live-streamed rosary will be at 9 am Pacific Daylight Time.

Pope Francis will open this month of prayer on 1 May with a Rosary broadcast across the Vatican Media's platforms. The Pope will also close the initiative on 31 May with another specially broadcast Rosary.

I strongly encourage all the priests, religious and faithful of the Diocese to join in this initiative. Now, more than ever, we need to pray, seeking Mary's intercession to end the pandemic.

May Our Lady of Monte Berico intercede for us and for the whole world to end to the pandemic.

God bless you.

Sincerely in Christ our Lord,

✠ Gregory J Bittman
Bishop of Nelson