



Beloved Parishioners of Holy Trinity Cathedral,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well during what I sincerely hope are the final days of the Covid-19 pandemic. As we ushered in the new year, we were filled with hope and enthusiasm that, with the blessings and guidance of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we would realize the goals we had set forth for 2020. Chief among those was our Capital Campaign project which we hoped to have completed by the end of the year. This would have included the long overdue removal of the scaffolding and the reintroduction of a newly renovated, and even more beautiful Cathedral for all to cherish.

Then, life seemed to stop for all of us. We became victims of the devastating effects of the coronavirus which jeopardized our lives and those of our families and friends, our routines and the economy. Schools, businesses, and sports came to an abrupt halt. Our hospitals were overwhelmed. Our restoration project was forced to halt for roughly six (6) weeks. We were forced to all but close our offices. While mostly working from home, limited staff would make occasional visits to ensure the offices remained clean and secure, and messages, mail and essential office functions would be addressed. Sadly, and perhaps most devastating, our churches were forced to shut their doors. Despite that mandate, life continued inside the four walls of our Cathedral. We didn't miss a single service. Thankfully, Fr. John and Deacon Sotiri were prepared as they immediately began live streaming every single service from the beginning. So even though Broadway went dark, the light of the Cathedral remained lit throughout this epidemic and continues to burn brighter. Our Cathedral restoration project has recently resumed, albeit slowly. We have also hired an architect for the Chiotes Hall renovation, and we are hopeful that the project will commence shortly.

This brings us to the present. We are now preparing to "reopen" our Cathedral in accordance with the new guidelines introduced by His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros, which we have posted on our website. As stated in the guidance, we are taking every precaution by disinfecting all areas of our church, and we are placing markers on the pews and floors to guide our parishioners in social distancing. We are looking forward to praying together as a community, and seeing everyone's face again, even if it is with masks on.

We all know that these are very challenging times, personally, financially, and spiritually for all of us. The Cathedral is no exception. The social distancing and sheltering in place mandates that we have had to follow have taken, and continue to take, a serious financial toll on the Cathedral. The weekly donations, which happen to be a major part of the Cathedral's income stream, have greatly diminished. All fund-raising activities for the year have been cancelled. The Cathedral's expenses, however, have not decreased comparatively. For this reason, we are asking those who are able, please remember the Cathedral with your donations. Whether it is for stewardship, lighting of a candle, reading of names, or a simple tray offering, every little bit helps, and we will be forever grateful.

We have several ways that you can continue to support the Cathedral electronically. If you are interested in donating, please visit our website, www.thecathedralnyc.org and select on-line giving, or call the church office.

Let us continue to find strength in faith and community, to pray for our health and safety, and most importantly, let us continue to pray for the guidance, protection and the presence of the Holy Trinity in our lives now, and forever.

Rev. Fr. John Vlahos
Dean

Stella Pantelidis
Cathedral Board President