

April 30, 2009

Dear Members of the CBA Community,

On Wednesday, global health authorities indicated that the swine flu is threatening to develop into a pandemic. At least one probable case has been identified in nearby Cortland County. Fortunately, none of the confirmed cases in New York State has been severe. Along with the Syracuse Diocese, we will closely monitor the information coming from the Onondaga County Department of Health and other important sources.

State and local health departments have advised that students should continue to attend classes as long as there is no evidence of flu-like symptoms that include: fever, cough, sore throat, and runny or stuffy nose. Symptoms particular to swine flu include muscle pain, fatigue, and vomiting or diarrhea. **Since the flu spreads rapidly, it is important that infected individuals not attend classes, activities, or sporting events or congregate in places where germs can be spread.**

Good hygiene will limit the spread of the flu. Therefore, it is essential that students reduce their risk of getting the flu and protect others from infection:

- Hands should be washed often with soap and hot water.
- Use hand sanitizers. Gels and hand wipes that contain at least 60% alcohol work best.
- Avoid touching face, mouth, nose, and eyes.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of a sleeve.
- Properly dispose used tissues and hand sanitizers. (Receptacles are plastic lined.)
- Do not share water bottles or other containers with others.

Since the virus spreads from person to person and by being in close proximity of someone that is infected by the flu, the following precautions will be taken at all upcoming liturgies:

- The distribution of Communion from the cup will be suspended.
- Eucharistic ministers will use a hand sanitizer.
- The holy font at the chapel entrance will be temporarily emptied.
- A moment of silent prayer will replace the kiss of peace.

It is anticipated that it will not be necessary to cancel classes. The cleaning staff routinely sanitizes all public areas and additional precautions will be taken. As circumstances warrant, additional advisories will be circulated. In the meantime, media reports will keep you informed. Other worthwhile sources for information are: www.cdc.gov/swineflu; www.nyhealth.gov; or www.schoolhealthservicesny.com. A New York State hotline is also available at 1-800-808-1987.

Sincerely,

Br. Thomas

Brother Thomas Zoppo, FSC
Principal