

Time of Covid-19 in Baker Lake



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Since March 19, 2020 we have been following the “Directives and Policies” received from the Government of Nunavut.

Regarding how to be present as pastoral agents in a community where there is no priest in residence, we follow the policies that our bishop, Bishop Anthony Krotki, has regularly provided to us.

We both sister Fernande and myself feel called to be a welcoming and prayerful presence among the people of Baker Lake. She is presently in her religious community in North Bay. Every day she is connected to us, communicating, and supporting us with her prayers.

I have not locked the church to date as it is my home where I live.

The people of Baker Lake are aware that I am with them during these tumultuous and uncertain times and that they can reach me anytime by phone. There has been much sharing of their conditions - living in overcrowded houses, their insecurity to feed their families, their fear and trepidation because of Covid 19, and the daily drama and turmoil happening in their families.

Recently I went to bless a family who moved into their new apartment. This brought them much joy and peace.

We continued to have our service every Sunday at 11 a.m. with only 5 individuals attending. After service, we had lunch together, as usual, while respecting the self-distancing rules.

We had Evening Prayer every night at 6 p.m. at which time we prayed the Rosary and concluded it with the prayer sent by our Bishop asking God to end the Coronavirus pandemic.

Through the Baker Lake Community Events Facebook page, people were informed and encouraged to participate in the Holy Mass on the “Vision” and “Salt and Light” TV channels.

Respecting social distancing, I met many people who needed to speak to me about their fears but also about the Hope and Trust in God who prevented the spread of the Virus in Nunavut...the reason, they said, was because of community prayer.

All 3 churches in Baker Lake (Anglican, Glad Tidings, and the Catholic Church) work closely together for the good of all Baker Lake. The leaders meet regularly to study and deepen the Word of God and to intercede for the many and varied needs of our people.

I think in this time of the Covid 19 pandemic, we were taught a valuable lesson: we are not in charge here. The Coronavirus pandemic presents us with a new situation, one for which none of us is prepared. Questions, fears, and uncertainties haunt us. Why did it happen? How can we stop it? When and where will all this end?

We have witnessed how easily and quickly our lives can be turned inside out, upside down, and we question if we really will ever go back to our "normal" routines and way of living. Hopefully, as we face the many current challenges and learn new rules of social behavior, there will arise within us a more willing spirit to embrace "us" rather than "me".

