

From parishioner Florine Postell, living temporarily in Milan, Italy

Wanted to check in with you and let you know Jim and I are fine here in Milan. It's an interesting time for sure, with the virus affecting the region's population. The regional government has acted swiftly to order the cancellation of all public and private gatherings, including church. So there was no Shrove Tuesday, no Ash Wednesday, no Carnevale in northern Italy. People have self-adjusted their discretionary time and money. After one full week of this pattern, most retail and restaurants and bars are open, but the traffic is drastically reduced. Where we live seems to be a large tourist area, and we can tell by the light pedestrian traffic that many tourists have cancelled spending time in Milan.

It's quite an international city so the difference is palpable. But people still go out and visit with friends and family. We've had people visit our apt and we've joined others at restaurants. Some people are wearing masks. First it was only the Asians. It felt discriminatory to me. But during this week Italians are taking up masks. There are masks, and then there are MASKS. It's interesting to see the socio-economic differences in the types of masks. We are not wearing masks, don't see the need. We just wear gloves and then wash them every couple of days, and wash our hands and face a lot.

Hope all is well at Calvary. Give our best to everyone