

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

May the Lord give you peace.

We have just received a letter from our Minister General regarding the Coronavirus (attached, in both English and Spanish). Please read it and distribute widely. We will also share this letter via our website. I am thankful for Tibor's approach which calls us to both prayer and action, and sets the proper tone for us as Secular Franciscans facing these unusual times.

At the national level we have received questions about whether to cancel or postpone Regional gatherings. We have no set policy at the national level but beg all to be properly informed and make wise decisions as a Council. Check local health directives and look at what the CDC says, and evaluate from there. None of us want to cancel things we have planned, but we need to carefully consider if we are putting folks at risk, or contributing to the spread of this virus.

Are we safe if it is a smaller gathering? Or if everyone commits to exercising the recommended disciplines? I don't have the answer to these, or to other questions. We might need to consider the facility where we might be meeting, and consider who has traveled somewhere recently who might be a carrier. We should not be driven by fear, but we do need good common sense and caution, given the current environment. There are alternatives such as rescheduling, or meeting by webinar or conference call.

The National Executive Council joins you in prayer during this time. Let us remember who we are, and be guided by the Holy Spirit in our prayers and actions. Living our theme for this year, let us continue to journey together in love and compassion.

Peace and all good,  
Jan

*Jan Parker OFS  
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***Journey Together in Love and Compassion**  
2019-2020 OFS-USA Theme*