



Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

Office of the Bishop *The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates, Bishop*

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer,
contribute to the needs of the saints. (Romans 12:12-13)*

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the midst of the current pandemic crisis it strikes me that, for us as Christians, adversity is not only an occasion to demonstrate individual fortitude; it is also a crucial moment to reveal the strength of our commitment to one another, our faith and resilience as a community.

I am deeply grateful for all the ways that individuals and congregations are responding to Covid-19: virtual worship underscoring our need to be strengthened by one another; feeding programs serving those whose need is greater than ever; phone trees combatting isolation; prayer chains linking our petitions and our pastoral hearts.

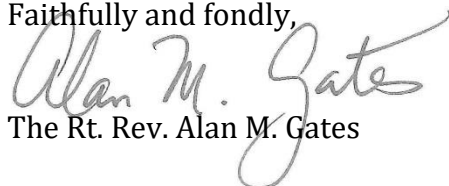
In all of this our financial sacrifice is absolutely essential. Support of your own congregation, through pledges and that which you would be offering at weekly worship, is imperative for your congregation to sustain its ministries and be there to move forward strongly when the crisis subsides.

Additionally, our diocesan support to the neediest among us is crucial. Each of us, individually and communally, faces challenge and sacrifice in this crisis. For some, this hardship is potentially devastating. It is in those places especially that we must care for one another.

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts has launched a Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund. **I urge your deepest giving at this hour, to your congregation, and to this diocesan Emergency Response Fund**, which will support grants for congregations least able to weather this financial storm, and for subsistence relief through congregational and ecumenical ministries.

We have affirmed repeatedly that we are stronger together than we are separately. Now may we manifest that strength! As our beloved Bishop Barbara Harris often reminded us (paraphrasing Emerson), "The power behind you is greater than the task ahead of you."

Faithfully and fondly,



The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates

Giving online will speed your gift toward quick use. <https://www.diomass.org/give-now>. Alternatively, you may mail a check to The Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund, Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111. Please know that since diocesan staff is working from home, there will be a delay in processing checks.