**From the Bishop Crosby’s Letter “*Sacrament of Reconciliation during COVID-19*,” March 27, 2020.**

A note from the Apostolic Penitentiary (March 20, 2020) regarding the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the present pandemic emergency, especially in the places most affected by the pandemic contagion, acknowledges that it may not be possible for the faithful to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the ordinary way (individual confession of sins and absolution). In such grave cases “*where the faithful* *find themselves in the panful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by a votum confession, obtains the forgiveness of sins even mortal ones.”*

I urge priests who are approached for the sacrament of Confession during the present time to kindly assure penitents that their sincere request for forgiveness, a perfect act of contrition and the firm resolution to confess their sins (even mortal ones) as soon as it is possible, obtains the forgiveness of their sins.