



Easter 2020

My precious parishioners,

Easter Greetings & Blessings - I MISS YOU SO MUCH! It is my sincere hope that this letter finds you well - and Coronavirus Free. Like you, my heart continues to hurt as I reflect on all of the great suffering that this Pandemic has forced on SO MANY of our sisters and brothers, both here in Acadiana and around the world. And, like you, I continue to grieve the effects that our “New Normal” of Social Distancing and Quarantine have had on our relationships, and on our Family of Faith. The ‘Forced Fast’ from the Eucharist that has been imposed on our Church Communities has been a devastating loss for all of us . . . and yet, the resulting HUNGER for Holy Mass and Holy Communion has been both humbling and inspirational for all of us who have the privilege of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ! In the midst of all of this confusion, it is our sincere belief that God is trying to teach us about what really matters, and in so doing, He is reminding us of so much that we have taken for granted.

A wise Carmelite Nun has recently reminded me that St. Therese of Lisieux (a.k.a “The Little Flower”) received communion for the last time about 6 weeks before she died. Her words: *“No doubt it is a great grace to receive the sacraments. When God does not permit it, it is good too. Everything is a grace.”* Similarly, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity was unable to receive communion for the last week of her life. She said, *“I find him on the Cross; it is there He gives me His life.”* And the Carmelite poet, Jessica Powers, echoes her foremothers’ sense of God’s presence: *“Child, have none told you? God is in your soul.”*

My dear Friends in Jesus, as Easter dawns all around us, please trust that I am covering you with MAJOR prayers. As some may recall, I take great comfort from the wisdom of Corrie ten Boom, the heroic Dutch survivor of a Nazi concentration camp: *“God never promised us a life free from storms - He only promised that He would be with us in the storm!”* And in another place: *“When a train goes into a dark tunnel, you don’t tear up your ticket and jump off - you sit still and trust the Engineer!”* As this Covid Cloud continues to envelop us, can we trust that our God is with us - and that He will see us safely through this storm . . . as He’s done in so many Faithful and Dependable ways as the Hurricanes of Life have raged around us? Know that it is my sure and certain hope that a huge part of our Easter Joy will be the realization of the wonderful reunion that we are all longing for - our Parish Family gathered in love, around the Altar of our Risen Lord - TRUST IT!

I leave you with this famous prayer of Thomas Merton - a prayer that had brought me great comfort during many Storm Tossed moments on my Pilgrimage of Faith. It is my sincere hope that it comforts your hurting heart as well: *“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end, nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”* [Thomas Merton, Thoughts in Solitude]

Easter Blessings, Joy and Love!

Fr. Hampton Davis (and all of the members of your dedicated Parish Staff.)