

March 19, 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I just wanted to write to let you know that you are in my daily prayers and lifted up as I pray Mass each day.

This Sunday's gospel tells the story of the man born blind. I do not know about you but there are times in this crisis that I feel a sense of blindness myself. What am I to do?... what is going to happen?... how long will this last?... how many people are suffering?... And, where is God in all of this?

The hardship of finding Jesus in our daily life becomes harder when we are separated from the Eucharist and the community. The blind man put his trust in Jesus and his healing hand and I think He calls us in this time to do the same thing. The blind man's conversion when asked who cured him went from, "that man over there", to "he is a prophet", to "He is the Son of God". I believe Jesus is calling us to seek Him in our solitude, in our quiet prayers (the side door of St. Mary Church is open from 8a to 4p for those wishing to spend quiet time in front of the Blessed Sacrament), and to seek Him in Holy Scripture. Maybe take the time to read the readings of the day in "The Word Among Us", on our website, on the USCCB website, or from other daily devotionals. Also, Bishop Barron has allowed us to stream the daily Mass from his chapel (on our website stmarydelavan.org) to help us stay in touch with the Mass, make a spiritual Communion, and to help us to know we are not alone.

I believe this is a time God calls us to spend time with family and to recognize Him and His love that He shares through our love of family. Maybe we need to take some time to pray together for those we love, all those who are ill, and those who are called to care for them. Like the blind man, if we seek Jesus in this time of darkness, He will open our eyes to His loving care and light the way for us.

In a Union of Prayer,

Fr Tim