

April 3, 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we are about to enter Holy Week during our monastic time (shelter in place), I was reflecting on what this Holy Week will be like celebrating the Masses without you with me. I am reminded of what my spiritual director told me back in the seminary. "If you find the Mass lacking it is not the Mass that is lacking, it is you." I am reminded that as our prayers are lifted up to God we are as St Paul tells us, still one body, united in God's love for us and our love for Him.

This Sunday is Palm/Passion Sunday. I was reflecting how this Sunday is especially meaningful to us this year. The people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus into their city with great celebration as their King and a few days later were crying out Crucify him, Crucify him. We entered into the month of March with all going fairly well for us and a few short days later, things seemed to have fallen apart. I believe God is reminding us to remember that He is the King of our hearts and the King of our lives, that He has not deserted us but is walking this path with us.

This Holy Week, I feel in a special way, we are called to ask ourselves how we are going to help make this a Holy Week for ourselves and our families. We have more time to do the things God asks us to do. The danger is that the Devil will try to convince us that this is a time to get lazy in our spiritual life especially as we are separated from the Sacraments. As we watch more TV and movies, play video games, talk on the phone or face time, read our favorite books, we must not grow lazy in our spiritual life. This is a time to increase our prayers, spiritual reading, and reflecting on the Passion of our Lord Jesus. There are many things we can do. Watch the Mass each day on EWTN or Bishop Baron on our website, read a spiritual book or follow Lenten reflections given to us by many different sources, pray the Rosary and/or the Divine Mercy Chaplet, or other prayers with the family each day, reflecting on The Way of the Cross (many different versions on the web) which helps us to understand more fully what Jesus did for us and with us, reading the Scripture of the day (on our website) and following Jesus on His way to the Cross, and maybe spending time reflecting on how good Jesus has been, is, and always will be, good to

us. I will be sending out a letter for each of the Triduum days (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter, to help us all to make this journey with Jesus.

I would like to thank all who have been kind to me during this time, (getting groceries, bringing in food, offering prayers and good wishes). I also would like to thank all who have been kind to the parish by mailing in their generous donations, understanding the bills of the parish continue. Some have even increased their donations to help offset the short fall. I am extremely grateful to those who have sent us their donations. I do encourage those who can to mail their contributions to the parish. Last but not least, be assured that each day as I approach the altar, each day in my Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament, I lift you and your love ones up to the Lord. Have a grace filled Holy Week.

In a Union of Prayer,
Fr Tim