

4th Sunday of Easter

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I was reading, praying, and meditating over the readings for this Sunday, the second reading from St Peter's First Letter really struck home. He said "Beloved, if you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in His footsteps." How fitting for what we are going through today.

As you and I shelter in place, with some cabin fever, going a little stir crazy, and maybe even some friction as we and the people we love are locked up together, St Peter calls us to remember that Jesus gave us the example of how to deal with this suffering. Jesus dealt with His suffering in the understanding that there is meaning to our suffering. We understand that our suffering, when united with His, is given meaning and purpose. "Father, not my will, but Yours be done." Jesus dealt with His suffering in prayer. You and I call on our Heavenly Father to help us, to give us the grace and strength to do His will. Jesus prayed with and for His disciples, "Father, protect them from the evil one." We are in a special way called in this time to pray for and with one another.

Jesus served His disciples as He washed their feet and fed them with His own Body and Blood. In this prayer and in this service, we bring the love of God into our relationships, knowing we are loved and that love grows as we share it. Jesus knew the end of the story. He knew the victory that would be won. We, too, also believe in the promise that Jesus gave us. The promise that He would be with us until the end of time, the promise that His light would shine in all our darkness, His hope wash away our fears, and the promise of our Heavenly inheritance. *"Eye has not seen, Ear has not heard, nor has it even entered into the mind of man what God has in store for those who love Him."* Jesus reminds us to keep our focus on the promise, and to remember what we are going through is temporary. Even as we begin to lift some of the restrictions and we begin to see some hope of returning to a more normal way of life, our focus is on the light of Jesus Christ leading us to eternal life. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

Once again, I will be offering reconciliation on Wednesday, 4pm at St Mary's and Saturday 4pm at St Joseph's. I will be available for reconciliation at other times if you call and the weather is fitting (we will be walking outside). You all remain in my prayers and I look forward with great joy to the day we can once again gather around the Table of the Lord.

Fr Tim
