

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus telling His disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." The disciples were upset because Jesus had begun to tell them about His upcoming suffering and death. The disciples could not even imagine what their lives would be like without Jesus. They could not see how Jesus who cured the lame, the blind, the lepers, who raised people from the dead, how He would be put to death. They began to wonder if it was all true. Jesus responded to them by letting them know He would be with them always, that there was a plan, and a greater good would come out of it.

I am sure for most of us that during times of trial, maybe even this time of Covid-19 and "shelter in place", we maybe begin to ask some of the same questions. During this time we, like the disciples, may be feeling alone and asking ourselves how God could allow this to happen. Jesus reminds us, like He did the disciples, that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. That what we go through, whatever the trial, we know Jesus is there with us.

I remember my first cancer surgery some 30 years ago. There was some real fear. The tumor on my spinal cord was putting pressure on the nerves. The doctor of course told me of all the worst possible outcomes. I remember being with my Grandmother the day before the surgery. She put her hands on my face and asked me why I was so afraid? She reminded me that I did not go into the operating room alone, that I had the Good Lord on one side and Our Blessed Mother on the other. She gave me her Rosary to take into the operating room with me. When they started to wheel me into the operating room the nurses took the Rosary and wrapped it around my hand. There was a sense of peace that set in knowing I was in the hands of my Lord Jesus, and the loving arms of Mother Mary. I believe in these times of isolation we are called to remember that we have not been forsaken, that we are not alone. I believe we are called to remember the promise of Jesus that He would not leave us as orphans, but will be with us always. *"Do not let your hearts be troubled."*

Once again a thank you for all the kindness shown to me during this time, and thank you to all who have supported the Parishes of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's with you kind donations.

With this being Mother's Day, I thought we would end with a blessing for all mothers.....

Loving God, just as mothers give life and nourishment to their children, so You watch over Your Church. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their love and strength shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Happy Mother's Day!

Fr Tim