



"Deep and abiding friendship with Jesus Christ"

16 March 2020
Monday of the Third Week of Lent

Dear friends in Christ,

Although we are beginning this period of physical separation, we remain spiritually united as brothers and sisters in Christ the Savior. Lent is always a time of penance and self-discipline; a time to imitate the Lord Jesus, Who abandoned His own will and gave Himself up to the will of others. This Lent we are challenged by the situations surrounding the Coronavirus to surrender our will to do what we want, when we want, and instead to submit to the will of legitimate governmental and medical authority. Remember that Christ never opened His mouth in criticism or protest against (in His case *evil*) men who led Him in a direction He did not want to go, but willingly submitted. Certainly, there are pundits and critics everywhere, but none of us bears the awesome responsibility of public decisionmakers and health officials. We should be praying for them, not being sideline coaches and critics.

To keep us united in prayer, I recommend to you a prayer recently written by His Holiness, Pope Francis, and adapted by the Knights of Columbus under the direction of Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori. Perhaps in these days you can gather your family and recite this prayer asking Our Lady, the most Blessed Ever-Virgin Mary, to intercede with her Divine Son on our behalf.

May these days become a gift of time for each of us. So often we complain about not having time to do things. This Lent, we have been given time. What will we do with it?

Begging God's continued blessings on you, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Keith A Woods
Pastor

A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC



The ancient fresco of Madonna del Soccorso (Our Lady of Help) in St. Peter's Basilica was restored with the support of the Knights of Columbus to mark the Year of Faith (2012-2013). Photo courtesy of Fabblica di San Pietro/M. Falcioni.

O Mary,
you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain
while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother,
you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us
as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son
Jesus, the Divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill,
for those who are vulnerable,
and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with
protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick
and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our
sufferings and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

*Under thy protection we seek refuge,
O Holy Mother of God.
In our needs, despise not our
petitions, but deliver us always from
all dangers, O glorious and blessed
Virgin. Amen.*

Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis