

**Our Lady of the Snows Parish - St. Agnes Parish
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April 7, 2020

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of the Snows & St. Agnes Parishes,

This certainly has not been the Lent any of us expected to experience. For me it has given the readings of this season, especially the Gospels from this week, beginning with the Passion from Matthew this past Sunday and throughout the Triduum, a new dimension. It has brought home for me once again that Scripture is a living thing that can speak to us in any situation in which we find ourselves.

Jesus' Agony in the Garden, which we experienced on Sunday, has always been a source of inspiration for me, as Jesus, in his humanity, asks the Father if the cup of suffering could pass from Him, yet still places himself in the Father's hands, "Not my will but yours be done." This year, as we experience our own Calvary Christ's words comforted me as they reminded me that even in his Passion the Father was with Christ, loving and supporting him. I know we are all having difficulty not being able to gather together to worship and pray in this time of fear and uncertainty, but, remember, we are all connected. We are all members of the Body of Christ in the world. These words from my friend Fr. Greg Dube, the Rector the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception put it very well,

"For us, the civil authorities have required us to isolate in our homes. Our church buildings and the Pastoral Center are also now closed. That is all hard for us and a sort of Calvary for us. I imagine, many of you are feeling alone and cut off from your friends, family, and fellow parishioners. I know that it is causing different forms of suffering for

many of you. We need to remember, however, that even though this current situation is difficult it is for the good of all of us, not unlike Jesus's death on the Cross for all of us."

We may not be able to come together as we normally do, but we have gotten very creative with the technology we have at our disposal. I am glad that our offerings on our website, our Facebook page and on Flocknote are being so well received. You can always take advantage of those opportunities for prayer and watching livestreams by going to ourladyofthesnowsme.org. You can also learn about ways you can continue to financially support the parish at our website. Rest assured that God is with us as he was with Jesus on the Cross. He is aware of our current suffering and is with us in our troubles as He is with us in our joys.

All of us at the Parish offices and at all the Churches in the Parishes wish we could be together during this Holy Week and in the Easter Season, but for now we need to do as we are being asked by the civil authorities so that we can protect, not just ourselves, but those most vulnerable to this virus, just as Christ would want us to do. May we all keep one another in prayer and continue to pray for all affected by COVID-19. As St. Pope John Paull II often reminded us, "Be not afraid."

**In Christ,
Fr. Rob Lupo**