

Happy Easter! The Lord is Risen!!! I suspect that this is an Easter that we will all remember for the rest of our lives. I know that I have never seen society altered so much and so quickly in my lifetime. Let us remember in prayer the victims of this pandemic, as well as all those who have helped us in these uncertain times: doctors and nurses, 1st responders, grocery store employees, members of government, and all the rest. Each of us have faced and will continue to face challenges in the days ahead. Although I think we will eventually return to some kind of normalcy in the months ahead, I also believe we will see permanent change to some aspects of our lives from what we have gone through.

What has not changed, and what will never change is God's love for us! "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty"(Rev 1:8). These days have tested our faith indeed, but I also hope it has enriched your faith. This time should inform our conscience about what type of faith seed we have cultivated. Recall the parable of the seed, some fell on the path and the birds ate it, some seed fell on rocky ground where there was little soil. The seed soon sprouted, but when the sun came up it burnt the young plants. Some seed fell among thorn bushes which grew up and choked the plants. Some seed fell among thorn bushes which grew up and choked the plants. Some seed fell on good soil and produced an abundance of fruit. Where has the seeds of faith fallen upon our lives as of late?

Remember the significance of the seeds of faith that Jesus has taught us. The birds represent Satan. The seed on the path represents people who hear the message, but it is immediately lost. The seed on the rocky ground represents people who respond with initial enthusiasm, but the word of God does not sink in deep. When persecution or hard times (represented by the sun) come along they give up at once. The thorn bushes choke the message of God. It is heard, but people's concern for riches and their worries about life cause the plants to die. Good soil represents people who hear the message and live it in their lives, no matter the circumstances. I trust that with a well formed and deep faith most of us will prevail over these challenging times.

If this Easter teaches us anything I hope it is how much we need our faith and our faith community. Faith is truly tested during difficult times in our lives, it has been my experience that this is when most people will either forsake their faith, or deepen it. How has it been for you? The answer will lead us this Easter to find either an empty tomb with no hope, or an empty tomb with faith in Christ's Resurrection. We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.

Abundant Blessings!