



Jesus Lives!

LET US REJOICE!

Easter 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Mother Teresa Parish,

Greetings of Christ's peace and healing!

I pray that you and your loved ones are healthy and have the resources you need during this COVID-19 pandemic. As our human family continues to struggle to find effective ways to slow down and to end the coronavirus, each of us needs to do our part by observing the restrictions, praying for all affected, and showing care and giving to the needy as we can.

One of the questions people have been reflecting and asking is, "what can we learn from this crisis?" You probably have your own learning and have read many good reflections shared by others. For me, the answer is simple. As Christians, this crisis calls us to return to the BASICS.

First of all, we need to return to God as the creator of all. We are created in God's image as equal brothers and sisters. This is a time to refocus and renew ourselves. If we truly believe in God, we shall not make idols out of money, power or glory in our lives and shall be able to live together in harmony with others as God intended us to be.

Secondly, we need to return to God's commandments by loving God with all we are and have, and our neighbors as ourselves. This love is not self-centered, but *"love is patient, love is kind. ... love never fails...it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things"* (1 Corinthians 13: 4-7). Jesus exemplified this kind of love for us on the cross, a love that calls to sacrifice for others and to even lay down one's life for others. Do we truly love one another? Countless health care workers and first responders are doing it now.

Thirdly, we need to return to God's call for us to care for God's creation. We are not the masters of God's creation, but entrusted to be faithful stewards of it. In *Laudato sí*, Pope Francis calls us all to care for our common home, the earth. We need an "environmental conversion" to better fulfill our responsibilities as God's good and trustworthy stewards.

There are many lessons we can learn from the COVID-19 pandemic, but I think if we strive to return to our fundamental beliefs as Christians, this will have saving effects to human wellness and behaviors, and ultimately a greater respect for all humans, creatures, and God.

This is a difficult and challenging time for our human family and it is also a time for relearning and refocusing our lives. All of us are suffering from the virus, physical isolations, fears and anxieties and of course economic challenges. As individuals and families feel the economic hardships caused by the pandemic, our Church feels it too. With the cancellations of masses, we have been losing significant

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