



April 17, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

A blessed Easter to all! It is my hope that in a very significant way this year, especially in our circumstances, that the knowledge and experience of Christ's resurrection may profoundly affect you in such a way that you will become closer and closer to Him!

This Sunday we observe Divine Mercy Sunday, a special observance that was put in place by St. John Paul II in order to open our minds and hearts to Jesus' greatest attribute – His mercy. I wrote briefly about this in this Sunday's bulletin and I invite you to read that short column if you feel so moved. But for now, I would like to direct your attention to your own spiritual lives during our "shelter-in-place" order.

I have spoken with many of our parishioners and it sure seems that everyone is doing very well in these circumstances. Not only that, I am able to hear how our parishioners are supporting one another and our communities during these past few weeks. Christians rising to the occasion! With this in mind, I would like to ask you to reflect on a particular item in our spiritual lives – the presence of God. With this in mind, the biggest question that we should all ask ourselves is this, "Where is God in all of this?" For many, it is easy to see Him active in their prayer lives and through the various works of mercy they are involved in. Some may have heard of conversion stories as a result of others going through their difficult infections, still others have experienced a sort of renewal and refocusing on the divine importance of family life. Many, many of our parishioners have expressed their hunger for the Eucharist, truly knowing of God's Real Presence and their longing for Him. And some have experienced God in the silence and stillness of everyday life, finally being able to be free of the noise and busyness of the pre-virus days. Think about where God is in your daily life. Is He asking you to do something for your family and neighbors? Ask Him into your hearts and please pray daily the prayer of Spiritual Communion. God longs for us more than we do for Him, and He is very happy to rush into our lives when we ask Him.

"Everything works for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose" St. Paul writes (Rom 8:28). How specifically is Divine Providence working in your personal circumstances? Believe me, He is present and active. How is the Lord calling you to action during these days? Remember, God is good, and He is always working for our benefit. My brothers and sisters, "Pray, hope and don't worry".

Sincerely in Christ through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,


Father Mike Patullo, Pastor