

# THE GIFT OF FAITH: THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ABUNDANT LOVE OF GOD!



Beloved (my brothers and sisters in Christ):

It is through our experience of the abundant love of God that we know through the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ that I can write to you this message of hope and of joy.

Our faith has opened for us the reality of a love so powerful that Jesus willingly offered His life on the cross so we might be saved. Through His life blood, He has freed us from the bonds of sin and the power of darkness that seek to imprison us. It is through this experience, it is in knowing God's love for us, which give us the essential hope of the human spirit as we battle darkness, fear and worry. In other words, we know and we realize that no matter how great the challenge we face, no matter how dark it seems, there before us blazes the living presence of Jesus Christ giving us the light we need to find our way through the darkness.

The crisis we now face has turned our world upside down and has challenged us to the very fiber of our being. Normally, in the face of such a crisis, we would gather in prayer around the table and, through the great Eucharistic Feast, be fed the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ to sustain us. This current crisis does not allow us to gather for our Eucharistic Feast. Because of this crisis all Masses, all Lenten events and all activities will cease at our parishes from now until at least April 15, 2020.

### However, we know that God will sustain us!

Our parish staff has gathered, and we will be putting together and offering several different spiritual experiences in the next few weeks, including electronic forms of communicating. While we know that this electronic form of communication and spiritual outreach is not perfect, it is a way we can connect, pray together, walk together, and share together the abundant love of God through the Living Presence of Jesus Christ. It is a way that the essential light of Jesus Christ will guide us through

the crisis and the darkness that we are facing.

As your Pastor, my heart aches with the inability to feed the flock that God has entrusted to me through the celebration of the Eucharist. I will do all in my power to reach out, support, encourage and provide spiritual guidance and spiritual experiences to you in a variety of what some might call "outside-the-box" spiritual experiences. (Please see the following opportunities in the *Bulletin*, on our parish web page, on our parish, school and discipleship Facebook pages within the next day or two. Links will also be established on our parish Instagram.)

Now more than ever, as people of faith, we need to witness and reflect the abundant love of God that we have come to experience and know through the Living Presence of Jesus Christ. Now, more than ever, we need to share the Word of Light and Truth with one another. I encourage you to share with your own social networks (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) all of the links or videos we will be providing for our parish families. Share these messages of light and hope with as many people as possible and in as many ways as possible.

Let us always hold before us this great truth: that our Lenten journey through the desert always leads us to the glory of the Resurrection and the powerful experience of the empty tomb.

In the Peace and Joy of Christ,

Fr. Don

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