

5/28/20

Brothers and Sisters in Christ ,

I'm sorry I have not been able to reach all of you by phone. I have been thinking about all of you and look forward to seeing you soon. I have put together a few thoughts I would like to share with you during this time. You remain in my prayers always. .

Fr. Myron

My thoughts on the challenges we currently face...

May 18, 2020 commemorates the 100th anniversary of our great St Pope John Paull II, who often said "be not afraid".

This is a stressful time for all of us. Having to be isolated from one another, shut in our homes, unable to meet, to worship, to receive the sacraments, to live our normal lives and keep our daily routines. When things open up, many will still be afraid to go out, to be in crowds, to become infected or sick. The entire world, for the first time most of us can remember, is in the same ocean, although not all in the same boat. We truly do not know what the future will hold for any of us. We fear economic disaster, illness, death, isolation, loss of family and friends and control over our lives. We should not succumb to this fear.

Most of us have never experienced such a prolonged period of uncertainty and change, but our parents and grandparents went through wars, cold wars and economic depression. Some went through religious and political persecution. Our forefathers in the faith, over many centuries, experienced religious persecution, whether in very beginning of the Church with the Apostles, or the early Christian martyrs in Rome, or missionaries in pagan countries throughout the last 2000 years up to the modern day.

But we are children of God, who never abandons us. What we need to ask now is, what is God asking of us at this time? This is not a retribution from God, who allows these events. He allows them to call us back to Him. It is an opportunity to turn our hearts to Him and His Word. He wants something special from each of us!!! To live securely in Him, to engage in the Mission of the Church with His Heart.

As the great feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost approach, we have an opportunity to draw near to God and to practice Faith, Hope, and love. We can grow deeper in our faith, using our solitude to listen to His Sacred Heart calling to us. We have new opportunities to learn our Faith, through the modern technologies available to us and through the time we have been blessed to have.

We can witness to the theological virtue of Hope (and trust) as described in Sirach 2:

My son, when you come to serve the LORD, prepare yourself for trials.

*Be sincere of heart and steadfast, undisturbed in time of adversity.
Cling to him, forsake him not; thus will your future be great.
Accept whatever befalls you, in crushing misfortune be patient;
For in fire gold is tested, and worthy men in the crucible of humiliation.
Trust God and he will help you; make straight your ways and hope in him.
You who fear the LORD, wait for his mercy, turn not away lest you fall.
You who fear the LORD, trust him, and your reward will not be lost.
You who fear the LORD, hope for good things, for lasting joy and mercy.
Study the generations long past and understand; has anyone hoped in the LORD and
been disappointed? Has anyone persevered in his fear and been forsaken? has anyone
called upon him and been rebuffed?
Compassionate and merciful is the LORD; he forgives sins, he saves in time of trouble.*

And we can experience true LOVE:

John 13:34-35:

*I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also
should love one another.*

This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

We are to love one another with the heart of the Father; to see one another as the Father sees us.

What is Love? 1 Corinthians 13. Love is... God is Love.

What should we fear? Not doing the will of the Father. The Lord disciplines those he loves.

God wants us to draw near to him. God wants us to confront within ourselves the obstacles that hold us back from a deep radical abiding in His Love, to live securely in Him, so that we can live from Him, and we can fulfill the very reason for which we were created: to Love God with our whole mind, heart, soul, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves, and as a member of the Church to engage, with a great heart, fully in the mission of the Church: the great commission, to have the heart of Jesus for the lost and for those who do not know Him.