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April 5, 2020

As we enter into the Holiest of Weeks of the entire Church year, I believe God has given us a moment of great pause, more so than at any other time. Although it doesn't feel like it, this Holy Week is even more about the state of our faith in God, His infinite love and what He has done for us. This year we have time to reflect and good reason to enter into the mystery of God's mercy and our salvation.

God has cancelled all our plans and the busyness of our lives. We had gotten so busy in the activities of life that I'm not sure if we realized how rushed and disconnected, we were even in prayer. I received an email from someone who said she has prayed the last three weeks more than ever. I hope this is the case for many of our parishioners. This is a profound time to grow in peace, relationship and intimacy with God. The world wants to rob us from the peace that only God can give. The media wants to feed on our doubts and fears, but God tells us to "be not afraid" and come to me "and I will give you rest."

Our churches are closed this year, which is so hard for all of us, but our God is living, alive and active as He works in our souls. Our hearts are crying out to God in a way they never have before. We long for the Eucharist, the Sacraments, our church community and our families to come together again to worship God and receive Jesus. A longing, we have never had to experience or endure before. But the longing of Christ to give Himself and be united to us is greater than all our longings put together.

We have been and continue to be in the desert while we carry our crosses but always with the hope of the Resurrection and Easter joy. The light of Jesus Christ shines through us brighter and brighter as we examine our souls and turn away from sin. Resurrection always follows the cross. Light always shines in the darkness.

During this Holy Week let us all look deep in our hearts and root out anything that keeps us away from the infinite love of Christ. Let us look forward to Easter with an even deeper appreciation of the sacrifice of God of his only begotten son, our Catholic faith and how it has and will continue to sustain us until we meet again to celebrate and rejoice at the Eucharistic feast.

God bless you.

*Fr. Slawek*