



SANCTUAIRE-SHRINE
SAINTE-ANNE
DE-BEAUPRÉ

April 2020

Easter Greetings to all of you !

In John's Gospel, while Jesus was visiting Martha and Mary after the death of their brother, Lazarus, he says to Martha, «I am the resurrection and the life ; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die»(John 11 :25-26). As Christians, we are an Easter People. We walk by the light of faith and live with constant hope in the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. When we are faced with trials and tribulations, and in our moments of greatest difficulty, it is often our faith in God's unfailing presence, the Holy Spirit's constant and steadfast guidance, and the belief that we will rise again that manages to get us through.

This is no less true today as our world and our society faces the ever growing COVID-19 pandemic. For many of us, we find ourselves living a Lenten season that is not quite like any other we have experienced. On Ash Wednesday, many of us committed ourselves to making a Lenten sacrifice of some sort as a reminder and in imitation of the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for all of us on the cross. At that time, though, none of us imagined that things would change so radically in our world in such a short amount of time. There was no way to prepare ourselves for the announcement that our places of worship would eventually be closed to the gathering faithful and that we would be asked to make the additional sacrifice of foregoing the very community celebrations and gatherings that nourish, sustain, and give life to us who constitute the members of the Living Body of Christ.

These days, we find ourselves in uncharted waters and unknown territory. This is definitely a new and unfamiliar situation for all of us. It is certainly not a very comfortable place to be, and the experience can be very unsettling. However, in this uncertain time, we can take no small measure of comfort in the knowledge that, even now, God is present with us. God loves us more than we can ever comprehend and never abandons us. After all, we are God's children.

As human beings, we have a tremendous capacity to adapt to new situations and circumstances. We may not always like doing it, but we can actually adapt, change, and evolve ; especially when we really need to do so. As our daily routines are disrupted by the evolving situation in our world, we will inevitably have to change some of the ways we do things, at least in the short term.

We will likely find ourselves having to take a lot of things just one day at a time and trusting a lot more in both God and one another. Once, I saw a bumper sticker that read, «If God is your Co-pilot, then you need to switch seats.» For those of us who prefer to believe that we are actually the ones who are in control, that is pretty sound advice.

Finally, in difficult moments in Saint Anne's life, she trusted that God would remain by her side at all times. God does the same with us. May St. Anne's intercession, added to our own prayers, help us to have the confidence we need in God's constant presence and love. Together with God's grace, we will remember that we are an Easter People, and that ***WE WILL RISE AGAIN!***


Father Scott Katzenberger, C.Ss.R.
Rector



O Good Saint Anne, you have the wonderful gift of being able to restore our trust. This is why we ask for your help to control the pandemic that threatens us.

We ask for your intercession to your grandson Jesus to restore health to those who are affected and peace to the places where this virus has spread.

We thank you for placing people on the path of our suffering who work in the medical field. They are often tired and overworked. Give them the energy that they need to confront this pandemic.

Lord Jesus, we feel powerless in this global health crisis, but we trust in you. You will always be the doctor of both our souls and our bodies.

Good Saint Anne, with your daughter Mary, protect us, continue to take care of us, and guide us always to your grandson Jesus.

Amen.