

Dear Parishioners and all our friends watching out there, Good afternoon/Good evening.....Again I request you to enter your homes in a different way of course than usual, but never the less I feel that I am in your home right now as I have in recent days.

I want you to give me a few minutes of your time to have a little conversation with you again as I have done often in the past few weeks we have NOT come together at the TABLE of the Lord here in our church building at St. Ann

I want to talk to you in this time of difficulty and suffering. I can imagine you are all in your families, living an usual life. As you try to avoid this deadly virus.

I am thinking of the liveliness of children and all our young people, who cannot go out to attend school, to play soccer or basketball, they cannot live their usual ACTIVE lives!

I have in my heart all the families, especially those who have a loved one who is sick or those who have unfortunately experienced a loss of a loved one, due to this virus **or** due to other causes. A relative or a friend whose funeral they cannot even attend.

I am thinking also of those people who are alone, and for whom its more difficult to face these moments. It's so hard to face challenges alone and no one to turn to at least to talk to.

I think of our elderly community, those we have shared the morning Mass and these elderly who have held this Church together for many years in the past, I am thinking and praying for you.

I cannot forget those who are sick with this CoronaVirus, People who are recovering and ailing in Hospitals. We cannot forget the generosity and sacrifice of those who put themselves at risk as they treat those who are sick of this pandemic, or those who guarantee the essential services to society in so many ways. We have so many Heroes every day every hour!

I also remember all those in financial difficulties and are worried about work and the future. My thoughts goes out to the homeless in our cities and towns. These have no home, no roof to protect them. It is a very difficult time for everyone. For many it's very difficult.

With these few words on this EASTER DAY, I want to tell everyone of your closeness and affection. Let us try if we can to make the best of these DIFFICULT times.

Let us Be Generous, let us help those in need especially those in our neighborhoods. Let us look out for those most Lonely people in our society. We can reach out to them either by Phone or by social media.

Let us pray in a special way for those who in difficulty in Our BIG cities like New York, New Jersey and beyond our shores all around the Globe.

Even if we are Isolated, (unable to shake hands physically) Our THOUGHTS and Spirit can Go far with the creativity of Love. This is what we need today, that creativity of love.

We are celebrating this EASTER in an usual way; and this unusual way sums up this message of Hope in the GOSPEL; That of God's boundless LOVE. He died for us. So in the silence of our villages and cities, the Easter Gospel is shouting in our hearts that He has Conquered death.

The Paschal faith nourishes our faith, nourishes our Hope. I want to share with you today that HOPE of a better time yet to come. The time which we can be better, we when we are freed from all evil and from this pandemic. It is the Hope which does not disappoint.

The gospel text continues to relate and say; “When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large.” This is the first message of Easter: **THE STONE HAS BEEN ROLLED BACK.** Yes it was very large. Yes it seemed impossible to roll (even for three strong first century women!). The first message of Easter is stop focusing on the stone. The Obstacle. Let’s Shift the focus to the risen Christ... That Christ not only Will, but did roll back the stone! The next faith step of Easter is this: we must do the same...in his name. We must live lives that witness to Him.

That we follow HIS lead. That we are loved and love because HE is love. That we walk with others on the way, because HE is the way. That we were accepted by HIM, though we were sinners, so we accept others. That we have been forgiven by HIM, so we forgive others. And we live lives that seek to find, heal, remember and welcome all in his name...until we are with HIM and each other in Glory.