

April 6, 2020

Here we are in the beginning of Holy Week 2020 and Easter is April 12. Did we ever think we would be living through a pandemic called coronavirus and people that we know are being diagnosed and other people that we know and love are dying. For the past six weeks or more I have been saying that none of us would be attending services on Easter and we would for sure be celebrating Easter very differently. God is calling us to this special time to stop and reflect, to reflect not only on what life means to us but also to reflect on what really does Holy Week and Easter mean to each and every one of us. This year it means that we come together with our faith community and pray differently. That doesn't mean we gather in a church building or group. No we come together knowing that we are all united in love and faith. Would we be able to walk these uneven steps alone? I know I could not. We each need each other because the road is rocky and as the days go by it gets much more uneven and our path is not always clear. This Holy Week we each need to take some time and look deeply at each of those holy days. What does Holy Thursday mean to me and what am I going to do differently this year. What about Good Friday? What is that day saying to me? What is Jesus trying to tell me? What is the day, Jesus asking of me? Then we come to Holy Saturday vigil and Easter Sunday. Is it just a day to get dressed in my finest or am I being led/called to something new? Can I see the Resurrection with new eyes and find a new hope, a new way to live and proclaim my faith? Is there a beautiful butterfly in your heart singing a song? On this Easter Sunday and everyday who do we lean on when we don't feel so strong? Above all, we need to have a heart full of hope, love, prayer and notice around us the beauty of God's creation.

As we look around us, around our world and read the obituaries, we are reminded that death is everywhere. There are so many people whose hearts are broken and because of the coronavirus can't celebrate their loved one's life or maybe even have any company because they are quarantined or are really trying to stay home. How, I am sure, each of our hearts break for them. As I listen day after day to people, I think there has to be more

that I can do for them now but no, I am limited because of covid 19 just like you are. What we can do is reach out in love and be that listening ear and by all means lift them up to God and ask God to surround them with love and strength during this uncertain time. My prayer for each of you is that you can be strong enough to get through this crisis with God and many others walking that uneven, rocky path and that you and your family will, not only this year, but in years to come celebrate in new ways. It is then, we find the new meaning of Easter that is awaiting us. So open your hearts and feel it. Someone the other day told me her family is for sure going to be together for Easter: they are doing via zoom, FaceTime, skype or some other means of social media. Yes, you can still share a meal together if you plan creatively. Just make sure God is part of that meal. Prayers for a Blessed and Happy Easter. By: Sister Pat Fesler, HM Pastoral Assistant