

FOR APRIL 1ST, 2020 - REFLECTION

Dear St. Joseph Parish Families,

When I was asked to write a reflection, I hesitated for a bit. I said. "What am I supposed to write?" Well, here goes...

We are on day 17th of "Shelter-In-Place" directive and I'm feeling hungry! Are you hungry too? This feeling is for real! I feel hungry to be physically present in our Holy Mass; hungry to receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist; hungry to be at work and see my colleagues in church so we can exchange updates and pleasantries; hungry to go back to my routine but most of all, hungry to have that personal connection with my family. Oh how I miss all these that we often times take for granted.

Our vulnerability is being tested by this pandemic that has turned our lives around. But should we give in and let this dark cloud take over our being? NO! This is when we have to replace fear with faith. When I can feel fear lurking around me, I remember this beautiful short note I read and I say it to myself... "I am vaccinated by the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. No virus can touch me... I am vaccinated by the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. No virus can touch me."... again and again and again. I thought I pray enough. But to find out that I can pray much more! I am not alone... I know that we are all praying harder and more frequently. I find myself begging as I pray... begging for a resolution to terminate this monster that has ruined many lives.

Amazing how we are now globally connected through prayers. Our Holy Pope Francis leads us to unite and pray together. I choked to see the sadness in his face as he managed to walk under the drizzle of rain through the empty Vatican square... isn't this so powerful and beautiful? We are really connecting! Clearly, a lot has happened and changed the world but what is certain is our prayers and faith. God is just; HE will not fail us.

This pandemic humbled everyone. We became afraid because this virus does not identify by religion, race and color. There are moments when I wonder what's going on. What is God trying to say? Is He telling us to do something nice? Be kind? Love each other more? Come back to Him or be closer to Him? I tend to believe all these. I hope that when this 'come to pass', we have our own lesson learned, from the authorities of this country to us, who simply want to survive and live normally again.

May our Lord protect us and our loved ones.

Grace Lichauco
Faith Formation Secretary