

The first words of St. John Paul II comes to my mind when he was named pope: ***Be not afraid!*** Please know that you are loved by God. Faith gives us hope, and hope is confident assurance of the things not yet seen! Our world has lost a real sense of reverence for God and for one another. We must help the world recover this sense of reverence.

Amidst the crisis of the Corona Virus Pandemic we see the world mobilized and forced to collaborate seemingly like never before. The devil will try and instill panic and blame, but we are called to be among those who have a cool head and be filled with hope. I would invite you all to pause for a moment and make a perfect Act of Contrition:

Oh my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended thee, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help you your grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

I encourage you to be bold in inviting others to trust in God and invite Him to give them insight into all that is true, good and beautiful. If we are in the state of grace there is no need to be afraid. God is merciful and will always accept those who sincerely seek His pardon and mercy.

Out of prudence we are suspending non-essential meetings that could reach 50 persons.

At mass maintain safe distancing when possible (6 feet). If you are over 60 or are in regular contact with those who are I would invite you to take extra precautions.

This has placed tremendous financial concerns on many, try not to worry, I am confident that God provides all that we need and that should give us great peace in the midst of this trial.

Trust Him, you will not be disappointed!

Let us invoke our Blessed Mother to provide for us her mantle of protection. St. Joseph, pray for us, St. John the Baptist, pray for us, and all the Saints of God, Pray for us, and Jesus, have mercy on us!

Remember Jesus' great commission Matthew 28:16-20:

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Particularly the end of verse 20: ***I am with you always, even to the end of the age.***

Jesus is with us, He has our back!