

Easter Greetings from Fr. John

April 11, 2020

Greetings,

Easter this year is different. Because of expert medical advice, we distance ourselves from each other. Even close relatives or friends won't join us for Easter Dinner. We will miss them. We won't even go to Church physically. Yet, we do have some opportunities to worship on-line. (See below.)

We had hopes for Lent. For the Semester. For Spring. Some of us could be anxious about the summer. Perhaps, with reason. What will happen to our plans? For, we had hoped that...

Even, on the first Easter morning, the disciples are told not to be afraid. They are advised to "back to Galilee" and He will see them there. Galilee is "code" for where and when they first met Jesus. They head to Galilee. They understand Jesus' challenge to reflect on what about Jesus catches their imagination. As we also reflect on our "Galilee", what is about Jesus that first attracted us to Him? For me, I am always moved that He accepts people; He doesn't judge people.

Pope Francis leads us in prayer: "Lord, you don't want us to be afraid. You, Lord will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Together, with Peter, we 'cast our anxieties on to you, for you care about us.'" (1 Peter 5:7)

Don't be afraid to tell Jesus our worries. About the pandemic. About everything. We long to meet Him again when and where he first caught our imagination. Our Galilee. Can you hear Him call your name, again? What does He say to you?

An unknown artist (to me) captures compassionate and competent medical personnel attending to another victim of the global pandemic, a modern day Jesus. (unable to share picture here due to technical difficulties).

In this tapestry below, Raphael presents the power of the Risen Jesus conquering evil, death - and giving us hope.

Tapestry in Vatican Museum based on a painting by Raphael of the Resurrection of Jesus Stock Photo - 24708253. (unable to share picture here due to technical difficulties).

The Risen Jesus, says "Peace. Don't be afraid." And, tell the others we will meet up in Galilee where we first met. Jesus tells us to hope. Where do you think you would be able to hope again this Easter?

Available Easter Masses include:

Pope Francis at St. Peter's Rome
Easter Morning Mass (with English Translation)

Springfield Bishop Mitch Rozanski at St. Michael's Cathedral
10 am on WWLP Channel 22 NEWS
WWLP TV

Fr. John @ Sts. Patrick and Raphael
Easter Sunday Mass

Campus Ministries Easter Masses
Celebrated at a number of Campuses across the country

At this different, yet real Easter, where does Jesus offer you the gift of hope?

Blessings of hope to you and your loved ones,

Fr. John