

Mother's Day Greeting From Fr. John

May 10, 2020

Greetings,

Over the past few weeks, many turn to their mothers, for comfort and encouragement. During this pandemic, we all need encouragement. We also need to encourage others. On Mother's Day, we remember to whom we so often turn in difficulties: our mothers. Our mothers are there for us. They may not always know the answer, but they always offer encouragement. They also want us to live free from fear. Let us pray that mothers know our love, respect and support. For those whose mothers are deceased, may they know peace.

During this unprecedented time, it is natural to feel anxious or uneasy. We can't deny that. We don't have a timetable for when this pandemic will end. How soon can we gather again at a baseball game? We don't know. How soon can we gather for an extended family barbecue? We don't know. How soon can we go to the beach? We don't know. And, how does the pandemic impact our lives, families, communities or country economically? We don't know.

Yet, we are reasonably safe, in practicing safe distancing and hand washing.

This week, scripture brings us back to a time of upheaval in Jesus and his friends' lives: Jesus' table at the Last Supper. (John 14:1-12) Jesus warns his friends about his upcoming betrayal and death. The meal becomes chaotic: his friends want to know where he is going and how they can get there.

Jesus pleads "Do not let your hearts be troubled."

Last Supper Coronavirus Twitter

"The Last Supper' In Times Of Coronavirus: Jesus Christ 'Practicing' Social Distancing"
An unknown artist makes contemporary Leonardo da Vinci's 14th century masterpiece "The Last Supper".

At the same meal, Jesus adds "I am the way, the truth and the life." Just as our GPS may nudge us back on our route, so does our sense of goodness and right prompt us to continue towards life. During the last half of Spring Semester, do not so many of the College encourage one another to take the way to life? Do you not call each other to manage, adjust and flourish in unforeseen chaos? Are you not one who helps a classmate find their way?

As others have suggested, may you consider that this short term loss will turn into a long term advantage in both your personal life and professional life. In times of crisis, people will seek you out for counsel.

No one will know better how to preserve triumph when it seems impossible. No one

knows better how not to be broken by fear, uncertainty or chaos. You keep it together even though the pandemic brought you apart.

Keep in touch with Jesus who does not want us to be troubled.

Sunday Masses

Pope Francis Sunday Mass from Santa Martha Chapel at the Vatican

Streamed and Broadcast Masses in Western Mass

Sts Patrick and Raphael Parish Sunday Mass

Blessings to you as you turn to complete the Semester's work,

Fr. John

jpm6@williams.edu