

A Reflection on Our Recent Weeks through the End of Lent and the Glorious Days of this Easter Season

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As I reflect on the liturgical readings since we began our journey through Lent to our most recent days of Easter Season, I have come to understand more fully the meaning of a journey from the darkness into the light of Christ.

As we read in Scripture, we can see that darkness was present since the beginning of time. However, it is only now that I'm beginning to recognize the darkness in the suffering endured by those who have gone before us. So many lived through the atrocities of war, disease, famine, natural disaster, to name just a few. Today, we have but a glimpse of the reality of those times as we endure the darkness of this recent pandemic.

I have taken time during my prayers to reflect on each person whom I have loved and lost in my lifetime. I remember the darkness surrounding their deaths and the pain of saying good-bye. I let my mind recall their faces – one by one as I recapture a treasured memory that has been carved into my heart. In the eyes of my heart, I see those faces surrounded now by the ultimate Light as they rejoice in the embrace of our Father in Heaven. Oh, yes, the gift of Hope!

Tomorrow will come and I wonder what differences we will make as we create yet another “new normal.” Will we treasure our time together as family and not allow the busyness of “normal” to take over? Will we commit to eating together at the table as often as we can? Will we put down our cell phones and tablets more? Will we share the smile of our eyes if our lips are covered by a mask? Will we extend our hand to a neighbor? Will we take time to pray more and let Jesus continue to be the *Light* of our lives?

We ask God to protect our families, and our parish families, as we remain separated from each other sheltered in our homes and we pray for those who do not have a place to call home. We thank God for our country striving to get through this time separated yet committed and united. We thank God for the heroes on the front lines who are risking their lives to heal others. We thank God for the everyday people who continue to serve and provide us with our basic needs.

The Light of Christ truly brings us hope. The Light beckons us to seek the Lord; call upon him as he is near. He has given himself to us through the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Eucharist and he will always offer his light to those who seek him. Let us persevere in reflecting this Light by being the hands and feet in the love and service of all God's children.