

He has risen! (the Crucified)

He himself is the one who comes to meet us: "Do not be afraid"

He himself is the one who makes himself known and repeats insistently: "I am he". "Rejoice!"

Disoriented, we can't recognize him.

We find it hard to believe. (Like the disciples who did not believe the women.)

And we keep looking for him where he is not.

We call him "All Powerful" who, out of Love, became fragile and weak, like us and for us. For Love. For Love he died. But out of Love, too, the Father raised him up. And this Love saved us.

Hallelujah!

But this Easter of 2020 the whole world is going through a time of great desolation, fear, suffering and helplessness. The pandemic makes us feel fragile and vulnerable. To all of us, everywhere. It has hit us all. But most cruelly on the weakest and most defenseless. It has left us stunned. The globalized world—it has come to a global halt.

But let us not forget that our world was no longer a garden of roses for the majority of our brothers and sisters:

- Abysmal inequality north-south, millions of displaced people and refugees fleeing war and violence.
- Millions of excluded people in our cities live in vulnerability and total defenselessness.
- Thousands of children continue to die of malnutrition, lack of hygiene and curable diseases.

Let us not forget that these are preventable deaths, in a world where the fair distribution of essential goods and services is within reach. With the pandemic, while spending fortunes on non-essentials. they say we have cars and perfumes to spare, but we lack masks and respirators.

This 2020 we have not been able to gather to celebrate the Easter Triduum in our churches, nor have we been able to go out in procession through our streets. We have not been able to share the Bread together. Many others have not been able to be at the side of their sick, nor say goodbye to them, nor bury their dead...

Where is God? Does God keep quiet? Doesn't he care? Doesn't he do anything? God is on the Cross, with the crucified, with the victims. God is where there is Love (Ubi caritas).

God is here today: in the world turned into a field hospital, in all those who are not afraid to risk their own lives to care for and save lives. God is in all the victims and crucified of today. With them he suffers and dies (again). God is present in and with those who promote the humanization of all equally-- in gestures of mercy and consolation.

God is in silence. God is in the dryness. He is the Light but he is also with us in our doubts and shadows, sadness and anguish. He is in the prevention actions of "stay at home."

God will be a radiant light on Easter morning. And joy. And hugs and reunions, when the isolation is over and we can visit.

And we Marianist Family and MLCs, where does God find us?
With Mary and John at the foot of the crucified Jesus?
Attentive and available to do whatever He tells us to do?
May the example of life and faith of Mary illuminate and move us.

Our EASTER PRAYER for 2020

We pray for all the sick and dead from COVID-19, and their families.

We thank You for all the Samaritans today. Bless and protect:

- All healthcare workers.
- Those who care for our safety and peace
- Those who work so that we do not lack the necessary food.
- The staff of supermarkets and food stores.
- Those who maintain and clean our cities.
- Those who take care of information, communications and mobility
- Those who welcome, help and comfort the helpless.

We ask for the grace:

- To be reborn better, as a New Humanity, based on personhood and equity.
- To Rediscover the essence of Life and Faith.
- For Strength to abandon consumerism, individualism, indifference.
- To Cultivate the spirituality of Love and Service.
- To live a Strong and Practical Faith like that of our Founders. Like the faith of Mary.
- To Be active in promoting the common good, justice, peace and integrity of creation.

That the sanitary isolation does not make us indifferent or passive, that we find ways to collaborate with the social initiatives in favor of the well-being of the affected ones.

Grant us, Lord, the virus of Mercy, Generosity and Gratitude.

Stay with us, today and always. We need you.

May the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places,
through the Immaculate Virgin Mary.

Amen !