

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.” (John 14,1)

March 24, 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to share with you a moment in this challenging time. I really like this phrase from the gospel of John, **“do not let your hearts be troubled.”** For funerals, many times people chose this gospel. I think, because in hard times, we need to remember that God is always with us.

Our diocese is giving us good advice in this time of crisis. One of the phrases that caught my attention is this, *“this may mean that the parishioners need more from the Church at this time rather than vice versa.”* When I sit here with our Lord in moments of prayer, I am wondering in what ways I can now help you and encourage you to trust in our wonderful God.

I heard from many people that you are using the resources that are available on the internet to stay connected with our Church and with your God. This is great! I am very happy that you are nourished with the word of God and with the information that you need to know our Church and our God.

Saint Paul in his letter to the Philippians says, **“I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.”** What appropriate words to end this message to you, I am very thankful for your generosity with our parishes at this time. I have received your contributions to continue paying our bills, and also to help the more vulnerable people at this time.

May God bless you and reward your generosity with our Church. I am praying that you feel His company, especially in moments when this situation tries to overwhelm your faith and trust in God. We are going to put some resources on our webpage that I feel will be helpful for us in this time of worldwide crisis. Let me know what you think.

In Christ,



Fr. Ruben D. Muñoz Jimenez, Pastor
St. Joseph | St. Raphael Catholic Parishes