

Dear family in Christ

Yesterday's reading (3/24/2020), from the book of the prophet Ezekiel, in mentioning the Temple, as is mentioned in our gospel, reminding me again of the sacredness of our places of worship. When we are without, how it makes us long for it. The abundance of God's fruitfulness, that begins with a trickle and becomes a torrent of rushing water. And notice how our attention is turned to the east. The east is very significant for us as Catholics. The early Church saw Christ as the rising SON, and the sun rises in the east. As Ezekiel moves east, he sees how much, more and more, the graces of God flowing from God's Temple fill the earth and bring about an abundance of blessings. Just as the grace of every Mass celebrated flows out to people who are even physically far away from the Temple. Knowing that in the Masses I celebrate, that the graces of God are continuing to pour out. It is something that we should know in our hearts and allow ourselves to enter into this reality, even if we are not physically present. This reality is still happening today.

Also, in the gospel, where Jesus cures the man who had been ill for 38 years in John's gospel. The man's hope of being cured, his hope of this condition not being permanent. If the man had not been hopeful and stayed around the pool of Bethesda, he would have not encountered Jesus, and would not have had his condition remedied. We have to remain hopeful in these times, we have to allow Christ to encounter us in these times. Even if we may not feel His presence today, we have to be hopeful. God never disappoints on His promises. God is always offering us His presence, but we can always be hopeful for more. That is why Christ gave us the presence of His Church. The presence of His priests still continuing to offer Masses. Please continue to make that offering with your family. Set aside time daily for some form of communal prayer as a family, and especially on Sunday, to celebrate Mass through Media, with all of the responses and gestures if possible. Still reserve that time for God, because ALL of our time has been given by God's love. May we remain in hope during these times, and not allow this time to separate us from God's presence. That is the work of the evil one, and we need to remain hopeful, just as Jesus was hopeful to the Father's love upon the cross.

I continue to keep you in my prayers and private Masses. May God bless your persistence in faith and perseverance in His Almighty Love. Amen.

With prayers and blessings,

Fr. Rosenbaum