

Friday of the Third Week of Lent

March 20, 2020

Hosea 14:2-10

Mark 12: 28-34

In this time of separation, when we are isolated from one another and from the Eucharistic feast I draw your attention to the words of the gospel today:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind
with all your strength
and to love your neighbor as yourself.”

In times like this we must rely on what we have within ourselves and in what we believe to be true despite what might be going on around us. God’s grace, given to us in the Sacraments, does not have an expiration date. It contains the fullness of our faith and provides what we need until we see him face to face in his heavenly kingdom. Yet, this grace depends on us to be used in very situation and in all moments of our life. And right now, since we cannot gather together in person or receive the Eucharist into our own bodies...

We offer to God what we have in our hearts—love for Him above all things who made us in his own image and likeness and calls us to be his people and to face all difficulties and trials with the assurance of his presence.

We offer to God what we have in our souls—grace that never runs out and peace that helps us cope with stress and anxiety of those things beyond our control.

We offer to God what we have in our minds—the knowledge that good overcomes evil, that hope is stronger than fear, and that death is not the end of life.

And we offer to God all our strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves—everyday of our life and especially when we are feeling weak, alone and uncertain.

My brothers and sisters, we are in this together and all of us must offer all that we have in our hearts, souls, minds and strength to God which are more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices for it will lead us through this temporary separation to the eternal Kingdom of God.

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