

## **SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH, Pinole, California**

Easter Sunday Mass Homily April 12,2020

### ***A Love Letter from GOD. By Father Geoffrey Baraan***

To my beloved children,

I know that you have been wondering when this Coronavirus will end! I also know that it has been very hard for many families, the community and the world in dealing with the effects of Coronavirus. Many people have died. Some of your priests and many of your brothers and sisters have died. Sadly, they died alone without their loved ones present. But I assure you that I was there to take them and carried them on my hands to the joyful path to eternal life! (Ps 16:9-11). To those who are still struggling in the hospital rooms, know that I have not forsaken or have forgotten you. It hurts me so much that you're suffering. One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes (Rev 21:3-4).

My children *this* will pass soon. This will *pass over* like the Plagues of Egypt. I will not allow this to continue forever. I will not make it happen forever. Do not lose hope. I know this is hard. Give your burdens to me (Mat 11:28). Don't be afraid when you walk through the Valley of the shadows of death because I will be with you, comforting you and protecting you on your journey (Psalm 23).

In the meantime, I ask you to be patient. Do not to be complacent, hardheaded or stubborn! Remember I am in control. Even the difficulty and pain you experience can be

to your benefit if you endure these hardships as a loving discipline from me, opportunities for you to be trained in the ways of righteousness and peace (Heb. 12:6-11). Stand firm in my grace (Gal 5:1) and fight the good fight for your faith (1 Tim. 6:12).

During this time, I want you to remain faithful with me. It is easy to be frustrated, to be in despair, to lose hope in the midst of darkness and isolation. I am sure you know about the experience of the people of Israel. For forty years they were in bondage and then another forty years in the wilderness. They have cried out to me and to Moses, “Why are you doing this to us? But remember that “my plan for your future has always been filled with hope (Jer. 29:11) because I love you with an everlasting love (Jer. 31:3).

I fully understand your pain and struggle. I have heard your cry! “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Believe me I am crying with you (John 11:35) and I collect all your tears in my heart (Ps. 56:8). I will put a happy song in your mouth and give you a beautiful new name (Is. 62:2).

I am sending everybody a message that I hope will reach your ears and touch your hearts. I miss you all. So many of you have been away from me. I heard so many people say that I am dead. *God is dead!* I am not dead! There is so much materialism that many have forgotten about me. Many have become so arrogant and proud. They made money as their idol! This is not a punishment. Just a wake-up call! You have been very busy listening to other voices

and not my voice. Please call on me and I will answer you (Jer. 33:3). Listen and you will hear my voice directing you (Is. 30:21).

When I sent my Son into the world, I did it to show my love for you. I am not distant and angry, but I am the complete expression of love (1 John 4:16). You were not a mistake! I want you to be part of the kingdom of love and of forgiveness. The words of my Son Jesus are my words. My words are life-giving and eternal. They are not defective. They are meant to bring everybody to my kingdom. But like in the past, people tend to go on their way and not my way. They follow the way of hate and selfishness. I created the world to be beautiful. See the mountains around you in Port Costa and Crockett, the waters along Pinole, Hercules and Rodeo, the birds flying in the sky, the plants and flowers. You see the wonders of the world. And I created human beings to be good. But then it happened! Disobedience.

There is no appreciation. Many of you have lost your way. There is so much hate, bitterness, division and disrespect for one another, especially with our elderly and people in authority. My plans are to give you abundant life and not to harm you (Jer. 29:11).

I am re-creating the world again, not the physical world, but spiritually. I am watching the world. I know what is going on every day! Sometimes there are things that I have to do to remind you that I am still alive and still here.

It saddens me when you have to make a decision between me and the sports activities or casino or the shopping mall on Sunday. For many, the only time you come to worship in the church is on Christmas and Easter! Don't you love me anymore? Do you not believe in me anymore? Remember the Holy Sabbath Day. I will be your God forever and there is no other!

You have time for other activities but no time for me on Sunday. I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me (Ps. 139:14).

I am happy that I am witnessing transformation and change in people's heart. I see people helping each other; reaching out to those in isolation and darkness and those struggling with no one there with them. Now I hear more prayers and people asking for forgiveness for what they have done in the past. People are more kind and humble! I see family members and siblings forgiving each other. I have been seeing goodness in people's heart.

Please thank the doctors, nurses, nursing assistants, all health workers, firefighters, police officers, janitors and those who have been donating food to them. I am very pleased! That's why things have to be done sometimes for people to change and for change to happen!

You know me as a God of love and compassion. For in my Son Jesus, my love for you is revealed (John17:26).

This Easter Sunday is the climax of my creation when I raised my Son from the dead. I will not make it happen that you will be in darkness and isolation forever. In the garden in Jerusalem, I rolled away the stone of death and darkness to give way to life and light.

I just want you to return to me with all your heart and soul. Many of you have been away from me. The question is.... will you be my children again? (John 1:12-13). I am waiting for you!

I promise that this Coronavirus will end soon. The way I promised the people of Israel. And nothing will ever separate you from my love again (Rom 8:38-39). One day I will take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth (Rev. 21:3-4).

Come home and I will throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen! (Luke 15:7).

With all my affection,

Your loving God the Father!