



FRIENDS

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST JAMES THE APOSTLE

October 2021



God's Love and Healing...

Dear Friends,

In 1926, Pope Pius XI established an annual collection for the missionary work of the Church, known as "World Mission Sunday". This year we will celebrate World Mission Sunday on Oct. 24. Pope Francis' message for this year's World Mission Sunday reflects on the theme, "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). He reminds us that, "as Christians, we cannot keep the Lord to ourselves as we recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel." We are honoring our life and unity as Catholics through the special call we receive at Baptism to be missionaries. With this theme in mind, we hear from Fr. Loreto Jaque who writes to us from El Resucitado Parish in Lima.

Along with our Lord and Savior's presence, the poetry of Rainer Maria Rilke has been a constant companion to me in this time of the pandemic. His lyrical poems about sickness, loss and death, as well as love and

Diocesan priests serving the poorest of the poor in Latin America since 1958.

relationships, are a breath of fresh air for me in this time of the pandemic - a glimmer of hope that despite the sorrows we have to endure, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Rilke writes of this light at the end of the tunnel:

You, neighbor God, if sometimes in the night I rouse you with loud knocking, I do so only because I seldom hear you breathe and know: you are alone. And should you need a drink, no one is there to reach it to you, groping in the dark. Always I hearken. Give but a small sign. I am quite near.

Between us there is but a narrow wall, and by sheer chance; for it would take merely a call from your lips or from mine to break it down, and that without a sound.

The wall is builded of your images. They stand before you hiding you like names. And when the light within me blazes high that in my inmost soul I know you by, the radiance is squandered on their frames. And then my senses, which too soon grow lame, exiled from you, must go their homeless ways.

Another poem from Rilke reflects:

You darkness from which I come, I love you more than all the fires that fence out the world, for the fire makes a circle for everyone so that no one sees you anymore.

But darkness holds it all: the shape and the flame, the animal and myself, how it holds them, all powers, all sight —and it is possible: its great strength is breaking into my body. I have faith in the night.

I love the last line of this poem, “**I have faith in the night**” which reminds me of St. John of the Cross who, in his book “Dark Night of the Soul”, sees the dark hours of the night as a way of opening us to God’s unconditional love. He said, “One dark night/Fired with love’s urgent longing.” Here, St. John is telling us to have faith in darkness (II Ascent 3.1) and to love God in the darkness of faith (II Night 12.7; The Spiritual Canticle).

Loving God in the darkness of faith means trusting in God despite the darkness of the night. It also means spreading love, creating love, becoming God’s love despite the glooming darkness. According to St. John of the Cross, we can still feel grief and sadness of our losses, but these should not hinder us from making them a song of jubilation to God (Living Flame 2.3.6) in the midst of the dark.





It is only then can we find beauty and hope in the darkness of the night. In the dark, trust is important, as life is a process of continual change. Trust involves believing that everything will be alright because we have a God who supports love, beauty and goodness. Here in our parish, El Resucitado, we continue to embody God's love, beauty and goodness despite the darkness of the Covid-19 pandemic. I call to mind the words of Psalm 91:

You shall not fear the terror of the night nor the arrow that flies by day; Nor the pestilence that roams in darkness nor the devastating plague

at noon. Though a thousand fall at your side, ten thousand at your right side, Near you it shall not come, Rather, with your eyes shall you behold and see the requital of the wicked, Because you have the Lord for your refuge; You have made the Most High your stronghold. No evil shall befall you, nor shall affliction come near your tent. (Psalm 91, 1-10)

El Comedor Padraig is a soup kitchen that was founded in 2007 by Fr. David Costello when he was the first pastor at El Resucitado. Fr. David, Superior General of the Society of St. James, is still involved in helping secure funds for the Comedor, which continues to be a beacon of light and hope for the poor, helping them see God in the midst of this darkness. For the last 14 years, El Comedor Padraig has served the children, both Catholics and non-Catholics, of the lower-income families in the community by giving them free meals on a daily basis. During this time of the pandemic, El Comedor Padraig provides

for many people and has been especially helpful and appreciated by them. There are many who have lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 lockdown. Many of our parishioners have been starving, eating only potatoes, water and salt. Thanks to the generosity of our constituents and the help of the El Comedor Padraig the parish has ensured that the children have





access to much-needed nutritious food for their growth and development.

“And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple – Amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.”(Matthew 10:42)

This pandemic is far from over and, as the third wave of the pandemic still threatens, along with Rilke and St. John of the Cross, and my faith in God, I am content and at peace in the “night and the dark”. While we continue to suffer during this pandemic, we also continue to receive God’s blessings through the abundant kindness, love and generosity of others. We are fortified with trust in God’s providential care through and in the hands of each other. God is calling us to become his responsible partners in this time of the pandemic. In this darkness, we have to depend on each other and can be the light. In this darkness, we need to be partners with God and partnering with God means that all our collaborative efforts and actions help contribute to God’s healing activity in this time of the pandemic. As Pope Francis reminds us, “As Christians we cannot keep the Lord to ourselves”. Let love be our inspiration. Let Christ be our example and let love be our goal - love for all people who struggle and especially the poor.



You are heartily invited to the
St. James Society Golf Tournament
 being held at the
Windham Country Club - Windham, NH

Wednesday - October 13, 2021
10:30 AM Shotgun Start
 Call Blessed Trinity Parish @ 978-320-4220 for details
 Hosted By: Rev. Peter Quinn

With Every Good Wish in Christ,

Rev. David Costello, Director



Donate online at:

socstjames.com/donate-today

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24 Clark Street
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For the purpose of wills, bequests, and living trusts, our official name is:

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