Greetings from the President

Dear Members of the Aquinas Community,

As you know, after China, Italy is suffering gravely due to COVID-19. Some members of the Dominican General Province, to which we belong, have been infected. We are facing the unexpected, and the pandemic is calling for extraordinary and unaccustomed practices that make our Lenten journey different from any other we have experienced before.

This year, after our 2019 Lenten season was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we areLights, and 2020 will be no exception. Each of us is being asked of us now. For some, Lent has taken on a new meaning, and yet in this time of crisis, we seem to surrender ourselves to isolation, as we are required to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

When the healthcare system becomes overloaded, as it happened in the north of Italy, we are forced to watch patients succumb in a matter of days. Some of these patients are elderly and need to endure this suffering in the spirit of human solidarity and communion, for “if one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it.” 1 Corinthians 12:26

We hope and pray that we would prevent that from happening anywhere in the world. We have seen that the transmission of the novel coronavirus that has claimed the lives of many and has reached our shores is a reminder of the vulnerability of our every human person. We are called to help break the chain of viral transmission and keep the distance not because we see our brother or sister as a potential virus-carrier, or we are afraid, but because we want to stop this crisis. Together with the brothers and sisters here at Santa Sabina, I wish to offer words of reflection as we approach Palm Sunday on April 5, 2020.

Paradoxical as it may seem, keeping a safe distance from one another means we truly care for each other, because we want to stop the transmission of this virus.

We are called to “remain connected to our students, alumni, donors and friends, but…to separate us from our families, friends, and neighbors.” The COVID-19 resource page offers a number of prayer and liturgical resources and inside Firebrand+ (created by Aquinas graduate, Jared Bryson) there is a group facilitated by us that is being asked of us now. For some, Lent has taken on a new meaning, and yet in this time of crisis, we seem to surrender ourselves to isolation, as we are required to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

The current pandemic clearly shows that for something to circulate, personal closeness is not enough. It is necessary to respect the distance for prevention, but distance not because we see our brother or sister as a potential virus-carrier, or we are afraid, but because we want to stop this crisis. Together with the brothers and sisters here at Santa Sabina, I wish to offer words of reflection as we approach Palm Sunday on April 5, 2020.

We are called to “remain connected to our students, alumni, donors and friends, but…to separate us from our families, friends, and neighbors.” The COVID-19 resource page offers a number of prayer and liturgical resources and inside Firebrand+ (created by Aquinas graduate, Jared Bryson) there is a group facilitated by us that is being asked of us now. For some, Lent has taken on a new meaning, and yet in this time of crisis, we seem to surrender ourselves to isolation, as we are required to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

DATE: 4.11.20

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Dominican Family,

As we know, other COVID-19 countries have already turned to new means of communication to meet the spiritual needs of their people. We are called to be innovative and creative in serving the needs of our students, alumni, donors, and other constituencies of our society during this season of Lent.

In this Lent, we have a new way to embrace the spiritual disciplines of Lent when we cannot physically encounter in person. The time is ripe to embrace online spiritual reflection and formation, as a ministry of service in the time of need. Perhaps hope and joy and celebration do not seem quite fitting for this Lent but the joy where the empty tomb dispels darkness and death.

Easter season is actually well-suited for a world-wide spiritual reflection on the suffering of Jesus and his triumphant return to life eternal. Perhaps hope and joy and celebration do not seem quite fitting for this Lent but the joy where the empty tomb dispels darkness and death.

In this Lent, we have a new way to embrace the spiritual disciplines of Lent when we cannot physically encounter in person. The time is ripe to embrace online spiritual reflection and formation, as a ministry of service in the time of need. Perhaps hope and joy and celebration do not seem quite fitting for this Lent but the joy where the empty tomb dispels darkness and death.

In this Lent, we have a new way to embrace the spiritual disciplines of Lent when we cannot physically encounter in person. The time is ripe to embrace online spiritual reflection and formation, as a ministry of service in the time of need. Perhaps hope and joy and celebration do not seem quite fitting for this Lent but the joy where the empty tomb dispels darkness and death.

In this Lent, we have a new way to embrace the spiritual disciplines of Lent when we cannot physically encounter in person. The time is ripe to embrace online spiritual reflection and formation, as a ministry of service in the time of need. Perhaps hope and joy and celebration do not seem quite fitting for this Lent but the joy where the empty tomb dispels darkness and death.

In this Lent, we have a new way to embrace the spiritual disciplines of Lent when we cannot physically encounter in person. The time is ripe to embrace online spiritual reflection and formation, as a ministry of service in the time of need. Perhaps hope and joy and celebration do not seem quite fitting for this Lent but the joy where the empty tomb dispels darkness and death.

God be with you.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Mark E. Wedig, OP

President