

Rome, April 6, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Peace and Good to you all!

Once again, we are at the gates of Jerusalem and, like Jesus Christ 2,000 years ago, we have crossed the Holy City's majestic walls and we are walking through its winding alleys.

Even if the sun keeps shining, we also realize, as Jesus did, that the climb to Calvary was dreadful and painful and darkness descended.

Like Jesus, we shall not fear; our hearts must stand firm in the Faith in our Heavenly Father, who will never forsake us.

During this extraordinary Holy Week that leads us to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection, we shall deepen our Faith, shaken to the core by current events.

This year, we find ourselves with the Suffering Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. His cry, "My Lord, why have you forsaken me?" represents the cries of all the people who are afraid or who have lost their loved ones, friends and family members, often unable to offer them loving comfort and Christian farewell.

With Christ and in Him, we have strength to whisper, even in the most difficult moments, "Thy Will be done!"

This is the time to stay united. We are the Militia of the Immaculata and our strength lies in our own name. We must follow the path shown by St. Maximilian Kolbe. His teachings will guide and support us.

My beloved brothers and sisters, together with you I want to become the "salt of the earth" now even more than ever. However, to do so we have to bring the evangelical message of our Founder, St. Maximilian Kolbe, to as many people as possible. We must become "the light of the world," a light which illumines darkness. In order to be effective, we must prepare ourselves. How? Mostly through prayer, the Sacraments and formation: prayer and action must go side by side in order to defend that Faith so much threatened in the hearts of the most vulnerable.

**THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA IS HERE!**

In these unprecedented times, the ways we operate have changed but the message remains the same. Eucharistic adoration of Our Lord Jesus Christ and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary through the Holy Rosary, as well as the Writings of St. Maximilian and other formation resources remain in fact valid means to be together even if distant, and we must rely on them!

Our aim is to reach out to as many people as possible and to give them the flame that is MI: a living flame that can set on fire our wounded world.

"Go out into the world and announce the Good News!"

**CHRIST HAS RISEN!** In Christ I bless you all fraternally.

Fr. Carlos A. Trovarelli, OFM Conv., Minister General and MI International Assistant