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A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND HOPE IN THE MIDST OF COVID 19

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE DIOCESE OF KROONSTAD I SEND YOU THIS MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND HOPE IN THE MIDST OF COVID 19.

OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS IN RELATING THE GOSPEL OF THE DISCIPLES WITH HIM IN THE BOAT WHEN A STORM COMES UP. AFRAID THAT THEY ARE TO DROWN THE DISCIPLES CRY OUT TO JESUS 'DO YOU NOT CARE' WE ARE ABOUT TO DIE. JESUS CALMS THE STORM AND THEN SAYS TO HIS DISCIPLES 'WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID. HAVE YOU NO FAITH. THE WORLD AND SOUTH AFRICA IS LIKE THE BOAT ON A STORMY SEA WITH THIS CORONA VIRUS. WITH THE LOCKDOWN AND SO MUCH UNCERTAINTY WE ARE AFRAID OF WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN.


WE TOO ARE CRYING OUT TO THE LORD. DO YOU NOT CARE? BUT IT IS OUR FAITH AND HOPE IN GOD THAT MUST ASSURE US GOD DOES CARE. HE CARES SO MUCH THAT HE SENT JESUS TO DIE ON THE CROSS AND TO RISE AGAIN TO OFFER US ABUNDANT LIFE.

GOD'S WORD ASSURES US THAT JESUS HAS NOT ABANDON US IN THE STORM OF COVID 19. BUT REMINDS US 'I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS TO THE END OF TIME. LET US RECALL THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGE FROM ROMANS 'NOT DEATH, SUFFERINGS OR SICKNESS CAN EVER SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

LET US AT THIS TIME OF CONCERN AND WORRY SEEK THE COMMON GOOD OF ALL PEOPLE. LET US KEEP TO THE CALL OF THE PRESIDENT TO OBEY THE LOCKDOWN FOR THE COMMON GOOD SO THAT OUR COUNTRY CAN CONTAIN THIS CORONAVIRUS. THAT LIFE CAN RETURN TO NORMAL.

LET US PRAY IN OUR FAMILIES FOR AN END TO THIS CORONAVIRUS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. LET US PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRACTED THIS VIRUS. LET US PRAY FOR THE DOCTORS, NURSES, THE MEDICAL STAFF. THOSE IN OUR COUNTRY WHO HAVE TO SEE TO THE ESSENTIAL NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA AT THIS TIME. I KEEP YOU ALL IN PRAYER.

YOURS SINCERELY IN CHRIST,


BISHOP PETER HOLIDAY