

Hope & Consolation

Dear Friends,

This Sunday's readings give us so much hope and consolation in these difficult moments.

In the Gospel we read about Jesus bringing back to life His friend Lazarus. We all know this story very well, but I would like you to meditate on the first reading of this 5th Sunday of Lent. This reading is taken from the book of the prophet Ezekiel and goes like this:

"Thus says the Lord GOD:

*O my people, I will open your graves
and have you rise from them,
and bring you back to the land of Israel.
Then you shall know that I am the LORD,
when I open your graves and have you rise from them,
O my people!
I will put my spirit in you that you may live,
and I will settle you upon your land;
thus you shall know that I am the LORD.
I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD." (EZ 37:12-14)*

No, this reading wasn't chosen by me, or even by the pope, for this time of pandemic, but it is the scripture that we read on this 5th Sunday of Lent in every third cycle, i.e., liturgical year A. So, when I was reading it, I was amazed at how fitting it is to the present moment. God Himself promises us today that times will change, that after this time of grieving and sadness He will bring us back to full joy and happiness. I feel sad for those people who have no faith in God, because if there is no God there is also no hope. How sad that must feel. But for all of us, for people who believe and read the scripture and pray, there is great consolation. We believe God will come, that He will help us, and He will bring us back to life again. "I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord!"

God bless!

Fr. Kris

