

A Message for the Season

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We hope that you are healthy and that the news from your loved ones, from near or far, continues to be good!

We live in trying times in every respect: medical, economic, social, familial and, not in the least, spiritual-religious. I don't think there is anyone who disagrees that these times of concern for us and our families, insecurity, heightened stress and anxiety, will live forever in the memory of this generation and in the history of the whole world.

One thing is clear from all this situation: man is a fragile being.

As you already know, this pandemic also had and continues to have a very negative impact on the places of worship around the world. Religious services continue, but the believers who make up the living, militant and dynamic Church cannot be present. I miss every one of you, and sorrow fills my heart when I don't see the children with the candle in their innocent hands and the timid steps approaching the Holy Chalice for communion with Christ. Sadness is amplified as we approach the Feast of Light, the Lord's Resurrection, Easter, the Feast of joy and of Christ's victory over death, sin, and hades.

I urge you, especially now, not to forget those who are in much more difficult situations and to be the good Samaritans, pouring oil and wine, multiplied by prayer, over their wounds and troubles!

In the same context, I urge you not to forget our Church where some of you have married and/or baptized your children. The Church, as you know, does not receive any financial aid from any government or organization. Times are tough, but Church expenses are the same as before. In the words of St. Paul, *"Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not with regret or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to multiply all grace in you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work..."* (II Corinthians 9:7-8). Memberships, donations and pledges can be sent by regular mail, over the internet or directly at the Church.

Don't forget to pray more diligently and thank God for all the gifts and blessings!

For now, the services will be broadcast live via the Internet, and I urge you to take part, so that the church at home may be in communion of prayer and love with the Church, the house of our salvation and comfort.

May the good and merciful God bless you with health, peace, the joy of salvation and a good heart, and may the light of Christ's Resurrection be your true guide along your earthly pilgrimage

CHRIST IS RISEN!

With much love, thanks and gratitude,

Fr. George Bazgan