

April 29, 2020

Dear Parishioners of Christ on the Mountain,

Pope Francis says *"Do not be afraid of holiness. It will take away none of your energy, vitality or joy. To depend on God sets us free from every form of enslavement and leads us to recognize our great dignity."* (On the Call to Holiness in Today's World #32). This is the dignity the Father had in mind when he created us which allows us to be faithful to our deepest self.

We will bear great fruit in the world if we allow ourselves to grow in holiness. The gospel calls us to be salt of the earth and the light of the world. We must remember that the world is longing for the flavor that we can provide if we are faithful to our call to holiness. The world also needs our salt to help preserve that which is good and beautiful in the world. The world needs our light to help push back the darkness. The gospel tells us that a light is not put under a bushel basket but set on a lamp stand where it gives light to the whole house. We are called to be light on a lamp stand. Do not be afraid to be a light in the world and salt of the earth. It is what we were made to be.

Do not be afraid to be liberated by God. Do not be afraid to let the Holy Spirit be your guide. Pope Francis tells us *"Holiness does not make us less human, since it is an encounter between our weakness and the power of God's grace."* (# 34) This is the great mystery we are part of in the mystical body of Christ. Our weakness and brokenness encounters God's grace and that is holiness. The great tragedy is when we think we are too sinful to become a saint. Saints allow their weakness to encounter God's grace and that is something each one of us can do.

In weakness and grace,

Fr. David