

“How can we be calm at a time like this?”

Every day it seems as if more and more protests are breaking out across the country. Many of the confrontational moments have been captured on video and disseminated across the airwaves by various news outlets. Every time I log onto Facebook or Twitter I see more and more arguments that are sparked over the current COVID phenomenon as well as the response to it by our state and local governments. People are understandably frustrated. Many people have lost employment or income given the current crisis. After dealing with the economic realities that we are facing, many are fed up and upset. And, even as we are eager to get back out into our communities and resume our day-to-day routines, we continue to hear rumors about our target date for reopening getting pushed back. There are so many unforeseen problems that have come out of this that no matter how we feel about the responses to the pandemic and no matter what side of the political aisle we fall on, we can all agree that we are anxious about the future.

So, what does the Church have to say about this? Is there any comfort that can be gained from our faith in times like these? Listen to what our Lord has to say: *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”* - John 14:27, ESV

How can the Church talk about peace in the midst of all the unrest that we read about and experience going on around us? That’s the question that many outside of Christianity are wondering. There was a similar question that many had in Jesus’ time. How can Jesus talk about peace when all the early Church experienced was rejection and persecution? As Christians, we know that we have peace because the source of our peace doesn’t come from anything that we see around us. Our peace and our joy isn’t shaken by disease or political upheaval, because it is grounded in the resurrected Christ. Jesus has defeated sin, death, and the devil which are the cause of all the suffering we experience in life. Even as we continue to try to weather the storm of isolation, of unemployment, and of sickness, we know that our Savior continues to give us an eternal peace, which is never shaken by the things of this world. Instead, our peace is the source of our hope and our courage as we continue to celebrate the resurrection during this Easter season.

In Christ,

Seminarian Keating