

# Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Sunday, March 29, 2020



Good Day to you Dear Parishioners:

**Sunday, 5th Sunday of Lent** Scriptures: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45  
(or shortened version, Jn 11:3-7, 20-27, 33b-45)

The 1996 movie "Independence Day" is a story about an alien attack from outside our galaxy on the planet earth. In the movie the unthinkable happens: nations that are enemies and in conflict with one another suddenly find themselves as allies working together to defend our common home and common human family. Of course, the movie is science fiction, but does the notion of working together have to be fiction? In his Sunday Angelus greeting today Pope Francis related that currently there are 70 (*seventy*) armed conflicts taking place around the world. For a long time I have been of the belief that the end of World War II was just a brief respite before we foolish human beings took up arms against one another again. No sooner had the war ended than the struggle against colonialism, the Cold War, Korea, Viet Nam and countless other fights broke out. Today the Holy Father has made an impassioned plea for a "cease fire" from all of these conflicts so that the human race can fight a common enemy, COVID-19, *Together*. This is possible and it is certainly what God wants for His children. Maybe one good thing that can come out of this pandemic is that we come to realize our interdependence on one another and that we must work together for the betterment of our world. That will never happen if it our disputes are settled from the barrel of a gun. We don't need aliens to threaten the human race; we make enough trouble on our own. As Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead so may He raise the spirit of cooperation and good will from the tombs we often make of our hearts. "Unbind him, and let him go free" Jesus told the friends and family of Lazarus. Lord, unbind us from our prejudices, our bigotries, our racism, our personal opinions, our personal and national self-centeredness, our feelings of superiority over others. Unbind us, Lord, let us go free to love and serve you by our service to others in your name.

Beginning tomorrow, Monday, March 30, Mass from San Rafael will be live-streamed on our parish Facebook page (@SanRafaelCatholicChurch) at 8:00 a.m. and recorded for those who wish to watch it later in the day on our parish website, [www.sanrafaelparish.org/litugy](http://www.sanrafaelparish.org/litugy). The church will be opened from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. for those who might like to come by to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament and have some time for quiet, personal prayer. While in the church or Blessed Sacrament Chapel please be sure to keep appropriate 6' social spacing. It's amazing, really. We don't have large numbers of people coming to the church to make a visit but there is a pretty steady stream throughout the day.

A little humor for the day: Gas is finally affordable --- and we can't go anywhere! To go to the grocery store they said that a mask and gloves were enough. They lied. Everybody else had clothes on!

Monsignor Dennis Mikulanis  
Very Rev. Msgr. Dennis L. Mikulanis, S.T.D.  
Pastor