



ST. RITA IN THE DESERT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

OFFICE OF THE PASTOR

...With God, all things are possible! Matt 19:26

August 23, 2020

“You are Peter and upon this rock, I will build my Church and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it...” (Matt 16:18)

Dear Parish Family and friends of St Rita in the Desert:

Having the proper key to life can be helpful. Keys help us open doors that have been made secure for various purposes. Often, doors are secured to ensure that what lies within is kept safe and secure. Only those with the proper keys have the right to access what lies within a safe and secured area.

An example of this is our homes. Each home has a specific lock, keypad, or garage opener that gives access to the one holding the specific key to his home. Those that do not have the proper key or access code cannot enter. Having the proper key is important to ensure that things are secure, and that only they are granted the proper access.

When we consider today's Gospel, Jesus gives us an insight into how we can obtain everlasting life. The key to this reality is faith! It is not some kind of silly mumbo-jumbo sanguine kind of faith, but total trust in knowing fully who Jesus is. Jesus is divine and the Son of God. Knowing this truth grants us access to eternal life promised us by Him.

Moreover, the “keys” of the Kingdom of heaven were not merely given to just a select few, but given to all who have been baptized into the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are called to become the “keys” that unlock the path for others to encounter the living God. Our acts of kindness, forgiveness, and love will help strengthen other’s faith, so that they too may have access to the kingdom of God.

We must trust always that the freedom from our fears, doubts, and oppression can be unlocked by our faith in Jesus Christ! Trusting and knowing that He loves us beyond measure is the only solution to the world's ills! We must throw off the Baal's of our world and rebuke all that is not of God, in the Name of Jesus Christ, to bust the shackles of depression, fear, and ignorance, due to the false gods of our society. These false gods are known as the media, politicians, and false medical experts whose only desire is to keep us enslaved and sheepishly obedient to their immorality, control, and deceit. Christ is the key to all freedom! God be praised now and forever!

As we continue to endure the challenges of this epidemic, I would like to thank you all for your continued patience, support, and tolerance! These times have been most challenging for us all. It isn't easy when we implement certain pastoral practices for the betterment of the community, only to find that we can't or we have to revert to previous practices that may or may not have served us well. Again, thank you all for your understanding and flexibility. I appreciate it very much!

With parish business at hand, I would like to ask our parish family to consider assisting me in updating some of our outdated computers. Since my arrival, I have been made keenly aware that some of the staff’s computers are over six years old. Considering that reality, I need to fix this situation before we have a couple of issues that could compromise our parish database, filing systems, and our accounting program. As software becomes more advanced and expensive, our technology cannot meet the demands of the new operating system and the updated software. I wanted to ask. could we raise \$4000.00? Next week, we will have a second collection, with the funds earmarked to purchase two computers and one laptop for the parish staff. If you can participate in this process, we would be greatly appreciative! Thank you in advance for your generous consideration!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Reverend Alonzo M. García
Pastor