

7th fasting impulse on March 31, 2021

Be happy in hope ?!

During this Lent, I invite you for the last time today to study the following impulse. Take some time for yourself; Find a quiet place, a comfortable sitting position, quiet music if necessary. You can keep what is known as a “fasting diary” if you wish. You can light a candle. It is entirely up to you how you want to use this impulse for yourself!

And the pandemic continues: increasing numbers of infections, lockdown, closed shops, vaccination delays, etc., etc.!

And should we be happy there? And should we hope there?

YES!!!

Because our human limitation, which we often and especially at this time experience as a restriction, as an imposition, is abolished in Jesus Christ. With his life, death and resurrection he burst all boundaries!

That ONE dies for people, that he proclaims his message to the last consequence on the cross, that he has set us free to love, that he preceded us in his resurrection - is that no reason enough for hope and joy?

This resurrection is so incomprehensible, so against all scientific knowledge, that our limited mind cannot grasp it.

How about if we still lived as if we could grasp it?

That God in Jesus Christ understands every human facet, from birth to death and beyond.

That HE goes with us wherever he leads us.

That HE never leaves us alone, in whatever state we are.

That we therefore participate not only in death, but also in the resurrection.

THERE IS NO END!

Shouldn't this certainty have consequences? The apostle Paul wrote the following to the early Christians in Rome:

“Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”

Romans 12: 12-18

We can use these words as inspiration for our lives even in the pandemic - as swimming against the current of frustration, as it were! Instead of complaining about the limitations, we can try to make the most of the situation we are in. We can look to our fellow human beings instead of our unfulfilled wishes. We can try to be a light for them instead of pointing them out on the dark side.

We can focus on the events of the coming days: the last supper of Jesus, his death on the cross and the incomprehensible and liberating of the resurrection.

So what is preventing us from incorporating the apostle Paul's encouragement into our lives?

With this in mind, I wish you a blessed Easter and Holy Days!