

March 28, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

My best regards filled with peace and health!

Despite the distance, I want to be close and in solidarity with all of you at this moment that we are going through around the world, these are difficult times that demand greater trust in God, our Father.

We seem to be living in chaos, life seems to be threatened. We are all in the same quarantine situation, and we are called to draw closer to our God and, as Carmelites, strengthen ourselves with our charism.

Dear brothers and sisters, I invite you to assume 4 things that may help us to face the current situation:

1. To accept our human condition of fragility and vulnerability in the face of this pandemic that is affecting humanity, and to assume the guidelines of the competent organizations responsible of taking care of our well-being;

2. In this moment that we are "confined", we have the opportunity to deepen our fraternal life: acceptance, tolerance, respect and mutual care;

3. Time is usually our enemy! But now we can have it in our favor and, while taking care of our health and the health of others, I suggest to intensify our prayer life by praying for our brothers who are affected by this virus, and for the health professionals who devote themselves and risk their lives for the common good;

4. And what is more important, to increase our theological life, trusting in God and being hopeful that better days will come, and growing each day in love for each other. After this storm, we will have learned the value of life, family, our religious community, health and freedom.

Receive the best wishes from our Father General and the General Council, with the certainty that we are united in the same ideal, in the experience of the Carmelite Charism.

In Christ and Mary,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Luis Maza". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Luis José Maza Subero, Carmelita