

## **An Easter message from Donal Godfrey, S.J.**

This month is a sacred time for the three Abrahamic faith traditions; for Jews, Muslims, and Christians like myself. The question I have, how am I to celebrate Easter in this time of pain, and suffering caused by the coronavirus? The coronavirus is forcing us to change the way that we do life. It often feels like death. It is difficult to speak of God in such a time. All of the pain and suffering we experience during this crisis is not suddenly going to disappear. Yet, as someone who professes to follow Jesus, now risen, I find hope in Jesus' journey, which was not just a path to resurrection, but a way that included death and woundedness. And perhaps, just like the risen Jesus, it is possible for us to be wounded and resurrected at the same time. In his message for Holy Week our President Paul Fitzgerald, S.J. spoke of the ways people are reaching out in care to each other at USF and all around the world. This virus is opening us up to see how we are all connected, to appreciate our loved ones; to see our need for health care, equity, and justice for all - more than ever. Perhaps we are also understanding how we need to care for all creation. Perhaps we are learning to value life even more than before. Even if you don't share my Easter faith in the Risen Christ, I invite us to come together in mutual respect and let this virus teach us our need to create a different world, a more humane and just world. I share this poem by Christine Rogers, a friend at St. Agnes which expresses my hope. Happy Easter!

### ***Practicing Resurrection***

*What is the  
glorious  
possibility*

*inside all  
this fear  
and frenzied activity.*

*Can we  
continue  
walking with  
Christ -*

*through the  
agony - the  
scourging -  
the long, arduous  
dying.*

*Can we face  
our dying  
with Christ-*

*and enter  
a whole new  
Way of  
Living.*