

IN THESE PANDEMIC TIMES...

CHRISTENDOM CELEBRATES EASTER

Just as the Grinch could not steal Christmas, it could not steal Easter for Catholics all over the world.

Pope at Easter *Urbi et Orbi*: 'Risen Christ is hope that does not disappoint'

Pope Francis delivers his traditional Easter message *Urbi et Orbi* – to the city and the world – underscoring how today we celebrate the event that gives us the hope that does not disappoint: “Jesus who was crucified has risen.”



(By Vatican News staff writer)

Throughout the world, the Church proclaims the joyous news that “Jesus, who was crucified, has risen as He said. Alleluia!”, Pope Francis said at the start of his Easter message broadcast live around the world.

He delivered his *Urbi et Orbi* message inside St. Peter’s Basilica, just like last year, due to coronavirus safety measures.

He had just concluded presiding over the Easter Sunday Mass at the Altar of the Chair with a small congregation participating. The Basilica featured arrays of Avalanche roses given by Dutch florists who traditionally filled St. Peter’s Square with flowers on Easter every year, but had to stop temporarily due to the pandemic.

The Easter reality of the Resurrection offers concrete, tangible hope and consolation, the Pope noted, but its message does not offer us “a mirage or reveal a magic formula” we might wish as an escape exit to the world’s difficult realities.

Among them, the spread of the pandemic, social and economic crisis hitting the poor especially, but also, he noted the “scandalous” fact that “armed conflicts have not ended and military arsenals are being strengthened.”

Hope that does not disappoint

The Easter message of hope tells us concisely that “the crucified Jesus, none other, has risen from the dead,” Pope Francis said, adding that God the Father raised Jesus, who accomplished His saving will by taking upon Himself our weakness, infirmities, the weight of our sins, even our death. Because of this, the Pope said, “God the Father exalted Him and now Jesus Christ lives forever; He is the Lord.”

The wounds Jesus bears in His hands, feet and side are “the everlasting seal of His love for us,” the Pope noted, and all who experience trials in body or spirit can find refuge in them and “receive the grace of the hope that does not disappoint.”

Hope and solidarity in pandemic times

Pope Francis went on to say that the Risen Christ gives hope and comfort for those suffering from the pandemic, the sick and those who have lost a loved one. He also prayed that the Lord might “sustain the valiant efforts of doctors and nurses.”

He stressed that everyone, especially the vulnerable, needs assistance and has a right to care, and vaccines are essential. He appealed to the international community “to commit to overcoming delays in the distribution of vaccines and to facilitate their distribution, especially in the poorest countries.”

The Risen Lord is comfort for the unemployed and those suffering economic difficulties, the Pope said. He prayed that Christ might “inspire public authorities to act so that everyone, especially families in greatest need” can be provided with help in order to avoid sliding into poverty, a sad reality the pandemic has dramatically worsened.

The Pope referred also to the psychological weight of the pandemic on young people, who are often forced to stay at home without attending school or visiting friends in person. He expressed his “closeness to young people throughout the world.”

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SPU Manila President, Sr. Ma. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC, has this Easter message for the University:

COVID19 becomes more real when it starts to hit close to home: our dear friends, our own Sisters, the most vulnerable ones, our relatives, our loved ones, our co-workers, our colleagues.

With the 10k, 15k, 12k, 11k getting infected every day, would the collapse of our healthcare system be not far behind? In fact, we see it already happening.



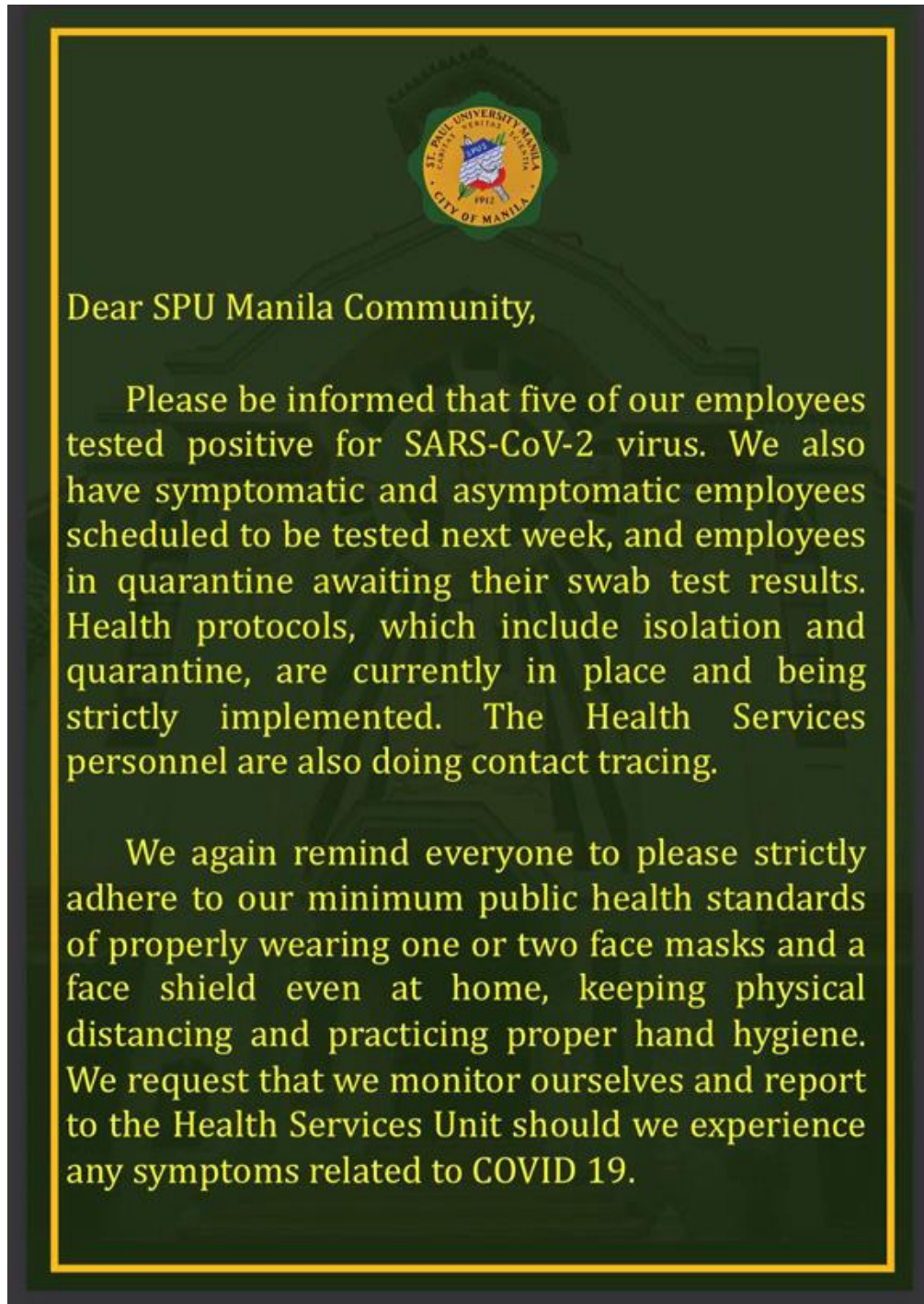
Lord, we believe that You, dear Jesus, are with us especially in the worst of times. In the midst of turmoil, may You, Jesus, be our source of HOPE, COURAGE, STRENGTH.”

“For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you, says the Lord, plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” - Jeremiah 29:11

“There is peace even in the storm.” - Vincent Van Gogh
Happy Easter!

The Philippines has seen a new and alarming surge in COVID-19 cases: 81,506 new cases in one week! For this reason, the NCR and the bubble surrounding it—Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal were placed under the strictest quarantine classification: Enhanced Community Quarantine until 11 April 2021, and possibly beyond that date.

For this reason, SPU Manila has issued a letter on work and health guidelines during this period.





Work from home arrangements will be implemented on April 5-10, 2021. All employees are asked to reach out to their immediate heads on Sunday, April 4, 2021, for their work assignments. Immediate heads should then inform the HR Head and the VP of their Division of the agreed work arrangements of their respective offices. Lastly, certain areas of our University will be disinfected by professionals any time next week.

We request everyone to treat one another with kindness which starts by respecting the privacy of our employees. We are calling on everyone to pray for the speedy recovery of our colleagues, for the safety of those living inside our university campus and for us to be granted the strength, courage, empathy, and perfect trust in the Lord to see these challenges through. Let us live out the Paulinian values that we have all tried to imbibe.

Thank you. Caritas Christi Urget Nos.

SPUM ADMINISTRATION

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Zoom continues to be the most used platform for online activities, such as webinars, prayer groups, and even light chat groups, whenever people feel the need to communicate with others, to learn or to learn how the others are doing.

The Paulinian EDGE continues its webinar series with this one on Saturday, 10 April 2021.



Dr. Brian Bantugan, Director, Research, Innovation and Development (CRID) will conduct a webinar on "Participatory Action and Development Research"

The webinar will be held at 2:00-5:00 P.M.

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Some zoom class meetings

Easter Meeting High School 1968

Pinky Sy-Narciso, Freddy Lorenzo and Coritto Sevilla from the Philippines, Teza Dizon from Australia, Lorna Teves-Alcantara from Va, Trini Ochoa-Francisco and Flor Siazon from NY and Marissa Acuna from Los Angeles



High School 1965 Three O'Clock Divine Mercy and Rosary (Every day) Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help (Every Wednesday)

Sol Ilagan, Marilen Ruiz, Mildred Magboo, Millie Braganza, Lina Noveno (New Jersey), Oro Gomez, Lahla Laforteza, Carolle Agbulos, MOM, Mita Almeda, Annie Salita, and Ella Valencerina

High School 1962 "Kamustahan" Every Wednesday (10:00-12:00)

Margot Ripoll, Cora Pacificador (LA), Rose Roy (LA), Grace Torres (Canada), Carolle Soriano (Washington), Fely Santos, and MOM.

