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Lent and Easter 2020

Dear Brother Priests, Deacons and Subdeacons, Consecrated Men and Women, Lay Faithful:

Since my letter to you on Holy Tuesday, April 7, 2020, I have felt the need to give you an update, and to give some good news. A few days ago, I tested “very positive” for the COVID-19 antibodies, which means that I had it, and developed some resistance to further exposure. I thank you all so very much for your prayers.

My greatest joy in all this was being able to confirm you, my brother priests, as Saint Peter was asked to do, simply by living with you the same social distancing and the same necessary outreach required in this pandemic. I learned how well you priests served and suffered with your parishioners during this time. In the midst of it all, I felt, and I still feel, that God is very much with us.

As Pope Francis has urged us, this quarantine time has been a time of serious self-reflection. This past Lent and Easter reminded us all that a loving, yet exacting God, has accompanied us throughout. We can be more confident in his mercy, and acutely aware that he is asking so much more from us. Let us then be ready to respond generously to the Merciful One, as generous as we can.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Gregory John Mansour

GJM/rs