Below is the link to the official text of Pope Francis' meditation <u>delivered in St. Peter's Square</u> on March 27, as part of an extraordinary "Urbi et Orbi" blessing "to the city and the world" amid the spread of the coronavirus.

https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2020/03/27/full-text-pope-francis-urbi-et-orbi-meditation/

This is a powerful speech and I really liked the simplicity of the message found in the below section of the meditation...Context is Mark's Gospel (4:35-40) where Jesus is sleeping in the boat (His Church) with the disciples during a storm that threatens their safety and survival.

"It is easy to recognize ourselves in this story...we see Jesus sleeping. When he wakes up, after calming the wind and the waters, he turns to the disciples in a reproaching voice: "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" (v. 40).

Let us try to understand. In what does the lack of the disciples' faith consist? They had not stopped believing in him; in fact, they called on him. But we see how they call on him: "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" (v. 38). Do you not care: they think that Jesus is not interested in them, does not care about them. One of the things that hurts us and our families most when we hear it said is: "Do you not care about me?" It is a phrase that wounds and unleashes storms in our hearts...The storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities."

I will add: Our Lord does care about us. He is calling us to turn to Him in faith. Be not afraid and seek what is eternal amidst that which passing away. Our Lord is in the boat (Bark of Peter) with us. Let not your hearts be troubled, but turn to the Lord and be saved.

I will keep posting things for you, so please enjoy. Vivat Jesus and Spiritual Blessings... Father Vic Gournas