

As I sat behind my desk to write these few words, I wasn't sure how I would be delivering them to you. Are we going to be in the same space, will I read them to you, standing in front of you, or will you read them through a screen, or maybe listen to them in a recorded video?

Dear teachers, dear students, dear everyone, from wherever I am to wherever you are.

We are going through extraordinary times. Mankind is in jeopardy, uncertainty is our guide, the word "global" has reached a culminant peak. Life is unfolding moment by moment, not exactly as we imagined it, but as it is, as we are experiencing it. This is the reality of this moment. Our dear Lebanon is in excruciating multileveled pain, and as I hope you are well, safe and healthy, I know you are not as well as you could be, not as safe as you should be, nor as healthy as you deserve to be.

We are alone, yes, we are left alone, without a government, without an economy, without security, without healthcare, without electricity, without food, without water, well, without so much I can list. We have every reason to fear the worst, of finding ourselves left without a home, without a country, perhaps without anything.

I express these words, heartbroken, I say them in complete disbelief, as I never thought that I would ever deliver such words, not to you, not to anyone, and not even to myself.

To inform you about what is happening in the world or in Lebanon, or to deliver news to you about the virus or the economy or the politics or anything, would be wasteful, because I have nothing new to tell you. And if I tell you anything about the future, would be speculating at best, if not guessing or predicting.

As I sat behind my desk to write these few words, I wasn't sure how I would be delivering them to you, but I profoundly connected with each and every one of you, writing every single letter of every single word, with you in mind.

You, at the frontline risking your life in the name of your mission, and you volunteering to help, you behind the screen teaching, and you behind the screen learning, you serving and you surviving, you living and you just being, you staying at home and you, you and you.

Your home has become your office, your classroom, your clinic, your hospital, your restaurant, your store, your mountain, your sea, your cinema, your transformable multifunctional space.

To you, each and every one of you, we might feel alone, we might be alone, but we are together. Without speculating, without predicting and without guessing, we are all together, and we all have each other, because of you, you and you.

As I sat behind my desk profoundly connected to each and every one of you, I felt your love, I believed in your hope, and I saw your light. Your admirable perseverance, your noble handling of every difficulty and every moment, your silent pain, humble me and give me pride at once. My gratitude to each and every one of you, for being you. You are pride, inspiration, hope, you are the belief that we were created at the image of God almighty.

With you, history is unfolding and being engraved on humanity's road ahead.

May we all be protected and safe, may we all be blessed, and may God bless our beloved land, Lebanon. Have faith, remember and believe, "this too shall pass".