

The Church and COVID-19

This has been an opportunity into the history of our faith. Not being able to worship together is akin to the Jews in Egypt. The difference is the Jews were being forced to not worship their God. We are being asked to stay home for the protection of others (as well as ourselves).

It is an opportunity to glean from this experience the separation from our church and family. Things are different, just as they were when I was in the military, separated from family, tradition and home.

It is a good experience to teach us what it is like for those who walk the streets, who have no home. It is good to know the way of others, the ones we are helping and often have no idea what their lives are like. A scarcity on the shelves in the grocery is an inconvenience to us but for many they face the issue of little to no food every day.

Truly this has been (and continues to be) Lent. A time in the wilderness to contemplate and reflect. We have felt the pains of want and the sadness of loss. I have lost friends who cannot be buried. I have seen the pain of others not being able to say good-bye to their loved ones in their final hours.

This Lent has been one of real sacrifice, not the silly giving up of chocolates or coffee, but of real loss and pain.

To cancel church is hardly a sacrifice in the face of what many deal with every day. Cancel a medical procedure because there is no insurance. Late to school because someone overslept after working late in the evening with a third job. A family evicted because the bread winner was laid off. Perhaps we have a better understanding of real sacrifice and pain. Not entirely, but a bit more.

Now if we could only get these Christians who insist on meeting against the proclamations... if we could only get up to be as committed to changing the unjust system that flies in the face of the Way of Jesus.