

# Quarantine Thoughts-5

## **Some Fears and Anxieties**

As we are going through a period of history, which we could have never imagined, so many doubts, anxieties, worries about the uncertainty of the days ahead especially with regard to the job, education, social life, etc. Some have even asked me about the future of the Church as a worshipping community.

- 1) After some time the people may lose faith and forget God. Unless we continue to receive the sacraments, we may lose touch with God. The reality is that we can still have the spiritual communion as we have in the holy eucharist. The Holy Mass has two main parts
  - a) The liturgy of the **WORD**  
We listen to the word of God, we have got the readings from the Old testament and the New Testament followed by the homily. These are still available on our parish website.
  - b) Liturgy of the **Eucharist**: Now as we know there is Spiritual Holy Communion which our Local Church authorities have given the dispensation of attending physically on Sunday mass. (*Refer to Bishop's guidelines in the parish website*)
- 2) It's true that we don't get the same spiritual satisfaction while we watch it on the Television or internet. But we also need to look at the present scenario and try to get the maximum from within limited resources God gives us today. Thanks to the modern social media. We can prepare ourselves, spiritually and physically, everyone having Bible or Mass/hymn books ready and actively participating, responding and singing like in Church.
- 3) Every day we the priests are offering Masses for the intentions of the Parish and the parishioners. So Holy Masses are offered in private in the Church as per the intentions of the Parish and the individual parishioners.
- 4) There are doubts that people may get accustomed to Mass at home and not turn up to church once the situation reverts. But let's hope and pray that the opposite happens and there's a big boom in church attendance which has got the Socialising and positive vibrations of praying together and singing praises to God.
- 5) Some people are frustrated, lose faith and are angry with God. If God is so loving and good, why is he allowing us to suffer like this? There is no readymade answer to it as we cannot grasp the wisdom of God. But we can look at these **SIGNS of THE TIMES** for some consolation (*Mathew 16:3; Luke 12:56; Vatican II, Decree on Ecumenism No.4; Constitution of the Church in the Modern world No.4*)
- 6) If God is the ultimate Power and the prayer is the most powerful weapon, why don't pray to God to deliver us from this Killer Virus. Why do we need to close the churches etc. But we need to understand that the Church has got both Churches and hospitals. Both are necessary and complementary.

Because are in the will of God as we see in the book of Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) Chapter 38:

*<sup>1</sup> Give doctors the honour they deserve, for the Lord gave them their work to do.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>2</sup> Their skill came from the Most High, and kings reward them for it. <sup>3</sup> Their knowledge gives them a position of importance, and powerful people hold them in high regard.*

*<sup>4</sup> The Lord created medicines from the earth, and a sensible person will not hesitate to use them. <sup>5</sup> Didn't a tree once make bitter water fit to drink, so that the Lord's power<sup>[b]</sup> might be known? <sup>6</sup> He gave medical knowledge to human beings, so that we would praise him for the miracles he performs. <sup>7-8</sup> The druggist mixes these medicines, and the doctor will use them to cure diseases and ease pain. There is no end to the activities of the Lord, who gives health to the people of the world.*

*<sup>9</sup> My child, when you get sick, don't ignore it. Pray to the Lord, and he will make you well. <sup>10</sup> Confess all your sins and determine that in the future you will live a righteous life. <sup>11</sup> Offer incense and a grain offering, as fine as you can afford.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>12</sup> Then call the doctor—for the Lord created him—and keep him at your side; you need him. <sup>13</sup> There are times when you have to depend on his skill. <sup>14</sup> The doctor's prayer is that the Lord will make him able to ease his patients' pain and make them well again. <sup>15</sup> As for the person who sins against his Creator, he deserves to be sick.*

7) We may have a tendency to ask God why it happened. Why this virus is created. But God has given us the wisdom and ability to find our cure for this pandemic. It is up to us to pray for the doctors and researchers so that they may easily find a remedy for this sickness.

8) Anxiety for tomorrow: about job, education, finance etc. Jesus has a solution for everything. It is we who find solutions when the problems arise. God knows what to follow.

*<sup>5</sup> When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" <sup>6</sup> He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. . (John 6: 5-6)*

As someone commented, "For past decades the Church has been asking what we do with priest less parishes; Now in these COVID-19 times the priests are asking what they can do with parishes that have no people." Even for a short period!!

A new method of evangelization may be brought into the world and Church reading the **'SIGNS OF TIME'**. Every single family brings the Church home!!

***The mysterious ways of Holy Spirit leading the Church!!***

***Father Joseph***