

Happy Father's Day!

We all acknowledge the unique role our fathers play in our life. But this Covid has made our normal celebration and connections with family and friends very hard. As a Spiritual Father let me share with you my worries and hopes in this pandemic time.

My worries: How will the church (community) look like when we come over this pandemic? Will the people come back to the Church like before or continue to be in their comfortable and anonymous situation with no pressure from Church life? How to reach out to people and share the Sacramental and social life with the Parishioners?

Is the Church going to be in the hands of the technology experts and will church be irrelevant for other people with little knowledge of modern technologies? People with little faith ask, 'Is God asleep', the health professionals seem to help us better. Is our life going to be in the secular authorities altogether?

How do we know people who need our help and how shall we reach them in this lockdown situation? Even the solution of vaccine has divided the people and the consequence of which we are uncertain.

Those celebrations in the Church like Mass, baptism, Confession, Confirmation, marriages, funerals etc where we could share our joys and sorrows and pray and glorify God and the families and friends could gather, will we resume those familiar practices and how long will we wait for it?

Those who are angry, hurt and hate the church due to many reasons, will this crisis make any difference in their attitude towards the Church? Will the young and old, men and women put their God given talents and resources to build a new and meaningful Church? Will the renovated Church attract people to pray and to reflect the Divine mysteries better and to celebrate the Sacraments more comfortably?

My hopes: There is nothing created by God is permanent in this world. There is an evolution and change everywhere. Even if we want change in climate and weather, we must wait for them, children to grow and get mature we got to wait. Time is the healer for every sickness. This pandemic situation also will be over in God's time (Chairos) and we have to be patient with God and His plan will always triumph. All that we experience will become part of history. Church and humanity have undergone many crises like this- epidemics, war, massacres etc and the Church always came to the help of the people and gave meaning and comfort religiously. Church managed by people, is evolving with its own limitations and the challenge in every age is make Christ' Church ever incarnational and relevant. We may have to redefine the idea of church, instead of asking people to come to church, 'church' must be where people are, in their homes, schools and workplaces. That is what Jesus did during his own time. As Pope Francis said, 'a Church for everyone'.

Happy Father's Day, stay Covid negative and spirit positive. We love you and God the Father bless you and St. Joseph intercede for you in this hard time in your life!