

11 6-14-20 Open the Doors!

Churches are re-opening for Sunday Masses again! Alleluia! No doubt, Covid-19 has changed what is normal for us and the way we do things will be different *for now*. Waiting in socially distanced lines to enter Walmart, wearing masks, sanitizing every surface someone has touched is the rule of the day. And, this rule will apply *for now* when we come to celebrate Sunday Mass in our place of worship. Yet, worship we must, for we are Christians. We believe in a God who still is on the throne.

Throughout the centuries' the Church has dealt with plagues, war, and disease. The plague of Cyprian erupted in North Africa during the 3rd century (250 AD). The plague lasted nearly 20 years and reportedly killed as many as 5,000 people per day in Rome. St. Cyprian (200-258 CD) bishop of Carthage, said that Christians showed and lived differently than others. They had a hope of resurrection, hope of eternity, hope of life forever, and it was their victory. The pagans said of them they would carry their dead with a hope of victory.

It is because of that hope that Christians have, the pandemic of today is a great opportunity for us to show our faith and hope in God as we live our Christian life. We believe what God tells us: "I will never leave you nor forsake you". Hebrews 13: 5b

Jesus tells us: "Do not be afraid of those who could kill the body but cannot kill the soul." Mt.10:28  
Jesus continues: "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them falls to the ground without your Father knowing."

Jesus tells us not to be afraid, yet in times of crisis, fear is a real emotion. It paralyzes! Maybe today you are struggling with fear regarding a difficult circumstance in your life or family. Perhaps you've received a discouraging health diagnosis. Because of COVID 19 your bank account is low, the bills are due and debt is piling up. COVID-19 may have affected your business and you are not sure what the future holds? Hold on!

Even though your world may be in a state of chaos, God has not forgotten about you. God knows every hair upon your head. Mt 10:30

During this pandemic we have today there is a great opportunity for us to show our faith and hope in our God in our Christian lifestyle. Trust in God. Believe in God's Word. Believe in the words of Jesus: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

During the last 12 weeks, I hope you did not just increase your blood pressure with worry and suppress your immune system with anxiety. Some folks in the extra time at home have grown closer together as family. Others have spent extra time in prayer, Bible study, and reflection. People have actually grown holier because of the pandemic!

Realize God is working in all situations. Behind the scenes He is planning good, success, and victory for His beloved children. Focus, then, on being faithful to Him and knowing Him. Focus on doing what He wants you to do. He'll take care of you. Your life is in His hands.