

Pastor's Pen
May 17, 2020
Sixth Sunday of Easter

As we realize this Sunday that we have been apart for two months now, let's stop to take stock of these weeks in quarantine. For some, it has been a time to rest a bit, renew our spirit and be with our family in a deeper way. For others, it has been more than enough parent time of being mother/father, teacher, negotiator, peacemaker, referee, arts and crafts teacher and all the jobs associated with being a parent in quarantine surrounded by the "angels." On a serious note, for some this has been the most difficult days in their lives. They have watched people they love fall ill to the virus. They have been unable to stay with them in the hospital and some have suffered the loss of ones they've loved without being able to say good-bye at the hospital or even give them a proper funeral. That is the heartbreak of this pandemic. For those who have suffered the deepest loss, our prayers are with you as you go through this most difficult moment.

For the rest of us, who may be bored and ready to move on, I ask us to consider what we have learned from this time. We may see it as just that "COVID-19 thing" that inconvenienced us for a while but really didn't cause us a lot of harm. Will we just go back to our lives as if we had a few snow days and continue with business as usual? If so, we will have missed the deeper lessons that may only come around with this force every 100 years. We are reminded by this pandemic that the smallest virus can uproot so many of us. We may think that we are invincible or invulnerable or in charge of our lives, but we are not. Our schedules, our meetings, our planners and all the ways we organize our lives to help us feel we are in control can be taken from us in a day, a week, or a month. How many of the 80,000+ folks who died from the virus had big plans for 2020? The grace of this moment is seen in many acts of kindness and love shown to one another. I suspect that's what we're supposed to take from this time. The kindness and acts of love that we do today are the only things we really have control over. The rest is in God's hands. Maybe that's the greatest lesson we can learn from this pandemic. Look for the needs of our brothers and sisters, even before they ask and figure out what we can do. Whatever kindness we can do today, let's do it, and not put it off until tomorrow or next week or next month.

We have been through a sacred moment in these last months. It's a moment that may not occur for another century. May we learn from it and not squander the power of this moment.