

March 22, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How amazing is God's Word; the Sacred Scriptures. How fitting they are for every day and situation that we find ourselves. In the Gospel, for the Fourth Sunday in Lent, people ask Jesus why a man was blind: "was it because of his sins or the sins of his parents? Jesus' response was: "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him." The man was blind because of fallen nature and Jesus was excited to be able to heal the man to show his power and glory in our midst.

During this pandemic I'm sure that many of us have thought similarly to the people in the Gospel. We ask ourselves: "What is the interplay between good and evil in the cause and effects of sickness and these types of crisis?" It is important for us to know that God never causes anything evil. God is Love. But God gave the angels and humans the free will to either love Him and serve His plans or to refuse. When 1/3 of the angels refused God and then Adam and Eve followed in rejecting trust in God, this brought about a great rupture between us and God and it also created disorder in creation and that is why we have death, division, and sickness, and chaos.

So, we can say that the pandemic is caused by spiritual evil in the sense that fallen angels tempted man and woman to fall and so all creation fell and this is constantly affecting life. And we can say that evil spirits are always trying to compound this evil and get at us in our weak spots. But we can also declare that God is always trying to bring good out of bad situations and is always trying to give us health and protect us. Jesus Christ, the God Man, entered into death on the Cross and brought about a great Resurrection. So, we have confidence in this time that although we have trials right now, a great victory for Jesus and humanity is coming. This is the substance of our hope and prayer during this time. God created out of nothing and continues in this spirit as He is always bringing good out of negative situations.

During this time of "social isolation," let us pray for the triumph of God in this epoch. I would encourage us to pray the holy rosary every day in order to be with Mary, the Mother of the Church, and think about and call upon the saving actions of Jesus. May we also read the Gospels during this time to be reminded of all of Jesus' miracles and healings so that our faith, hope, and love may increase and we be filled with glory upon glory, so that as the pandemic ceases, we are better than before mind, body, and soul for the New Evangelization of the modern world. Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus, send forth your Holy Spirit and renew the world!

Peace and Joy,

Fr. Drew