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# RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC

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July 2020

## Diocese Welcomes New Priest to the Diocese of El Paso

By Fernie Ceniceros  
*Editor, Rio Grande Catholic*

The Diocese of El Paso proudly welcomed newly ordained Fr. Ivan Montelongo at St. Patrick Cathedral on June 19, 2020, under the Phase 2 protocol for Church Gatherings with the Cathedral of St. Patrick open to 25% capacity.

Fr. Montelongo was ordained into the order of priests by The Most Rev. Mark Seitz with a small congregation of around 20 priests and Fr. Montelongo's close family. The ordination was also live broadcast via the Diocesan Facebook page to a live audience of over 500 viewers. The ordination garnered over 10,000 views in the following days after the ordination.

"This is such an exciting event that I have been patiently waiting to come for a long time. And like all major events, there's a bit of nervousness, but for the most part, a lot of excitement to serve the people of God in the Diocese of El Paso," Fr. Ivan Montelongo said.

Fr. Ivan Montelongo was born in California but was raised in Chihuahua City, Chihuahua, until the age of 15. He migrated back to the United States at 15 and enrolled and graduated from Socorro High School in 2011. Fr. Montelongo entered St. Charles Seminary in 2011 and later received his Bachelor in Philosophy from Conception College in Conception, Missouri, in 2015. He then went on to his theology studies over the last five years at St. Mary of the Lake Major Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois, outside of Chicago.

"I am so thrilled that I was able to lay hands on Fr. Ivan for his ordination," Bishop Mark Seitz said. "He is a bright and talented young man I am very proud to welcome him into the brotherhood of priests," he said.

Montelongo will serve as a diocesan priest and pursue his Judicial Canon Law degree virtually as he serves as a priest within the Diocese of El Paso. Currently, Fr. Montelongo will continue his priestly ministry at St. Raphael Parish in East El Paso.

"I am very much looking forward to serving the people of God in my ministry," Fr. Montelongo said. "I am asking that as I continue my priesthood, I ask that the people of God in the Diocese can continue praying for me," he ended.



The Diocese of El Paso proudly welcomed newly ordained Fr. Ivan Montelongo at St. Patrick Cathedral on June 19, 2020, under the Phase 2 protocol for Church Gatherings with the Cathedral of St. Patrick open to 25% capacity. *Photo by Paul Sandoval.*

## La Diócesis Da Bienvenida A Un Nuevo Sacerdote

Por Fernie Ceniceros  
*Editor, Rio Grande Catholic*

La Diócesis de El Paso recibió con orgullo al recién ordenado P. Ivan Montelongo en la Catedral de San Patricio el 19 de junio de 2020, bajo el protocolo de la Fase 2 de las Reuniones de la diócesis en la Catedral de San Patricio abierta al 25% de capacidad.

El Padre Montelongo fue ordenado a la orden de sacerdotes por el Reverendísimo Mark Seitz con una pequeña congregación de alrededor de 20 sacerdotes y la familia cercana del Padre Montelongo. La ordenación también fue transmitida en vivo a través de la página

diocesana de Facebook a una audiencia en vivo de más de 500 espectadores. La ordenación obtuvo más de 10,000 visitas en los siguientes días después de la ordenación.

"Este es un evento tan emocionante que he estado esperando pacientemente para venir por mucho tiempo. Y como todos los grandes eventos, hay un poco de nerviosismo, pero en su mayor parte, mucha emoción por servir al pueblo de Dios en la Diócesis de El Paso", dijo el P. Iván Montelongo.

El P. Iván Montelongo nació en California pero se crió en la ciudad de Chihuahua, Chihuahua, hasta la edad de 15 años. Emigró de vuelta a los Esta-

dos Unidos a los 15 años y se inscribió y graduó de la escuela secundaria Socorro en 2011. El padre Montelongo ingresó en el Seminario de San Carlos en 2011 y más tarde obtuvo su licenciatura en filosofía en el Conception College de Conception, Missouri, en 2015. Luego continuó sus estudios de teología durante los últimos cinco años en el Seminario Mayor de St. Mary of the Lake en Mundelein, Illinois, en las afueras de Chicago.

"Estamos muy emocionados de que haya podido ponerle las manos encima al Padre Iván para su ordenación", dijo el Obispo Mark Seitz. "Es un joven brillante y talentoso y

estoy muy orgulloso de darle la bienvenida a la hermandad de sacerdotes", dijo.

Montelongo servirá como sacerdote diocesano y obtendrá su título de Derecho Canónico Judicial prácticamente al mismo tiempo que sirve como sacerdote dentro de la Diócesis de El Paso. Actualmente, el padre Montelongo continuará su ministerio sacerdotal en la parroquia de San Rafael en el este de El Paso.

"Tengo muchas ganas de servir al pueblo de Dios en mi ministerio", dijo el P. Montelongo. "Pido que mientras continúe con mi ministerio, pido que el pueblo de Dios en la Diócesis pueda seguir rezando por mí", terminó.

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

# The Only Way Out is Through

A warm morning in El Paso in June might not be a stretch to imagine, but even the warmth of this day was not enough to distract me from the pain I was in while I nervously sat on a park bench outside of my dentist's office.

Due to COVID-19 precautions, the dentist's office had asked me to wait outside while they were getting the exam room prepared. As I sat, I tried to focus my pain into prayer, asking God to help me remove this awful pain.

"Fernando Ceniceros," yelled the office attendant as she called my name to let me know they were ready for me. "I just need to check your temperature," she added. She then escorted me to my exam room, where I got to sit alone for a couple of minutes.

"Please, God, help me through



Fernie Ceniceros

this pain," I prayed in my head. I had no idea what they were going to tell me, but what I often do when I'm nervous, my head tends to get the best of me. I began to imagine the dentist telling me that a piece of my jaw needed to be removed with my wisdom tooth. I stopped and prayed again, "Please, God, help me through this pain!"

The dental assistant came in very nicely handled my case

and did X-Rays of the part of my mouth that was the cause of my pain. She noticed me almost trembling and told me not to worry; the dentist would be in soon and will help start making me feel better. I sank into the exam chair. My hands were like ice blocks; I was in so much pain. All I could do was breathe and pray.

The dentist finally came in and examined my teeth. As soon as he looked at them, he lets out a sigh of empathy and says, "Oh my, I am so sorry you're in the pain you're in." He examines a little more and then takes a seat next to me. "I'm sorry, Mr. Ceniceros, but it looks like we're going to have to pull some teeth," he says. "Don't worry, I do this every day, and you're going to be in good hands," he adds. He then tells me how my lower right wisdom tooth has grown so much that it

cracked the molar next to it.

I was in shock; I guess a piece of me had always assumed that it would only be the wisdom tooth needed to come out. I must have gone pale because the doctor could tell I was not prepared to hear the news I had just heard. "I am going to prescribe some pain killer so you can at least be comfortable for the next couple of days, and I want you to come back on Wednesday so you can get those teeth taken out," he confidently said to me. As I left the office, I felt a sense of dread mixed with a sense of relief. It was a bizarre combination of feelings that carried for the next couple of days up until my oral surgery.

As the day of my tooth extraction came, I thought I would be more nervous than I was. But the surgery came and went. It

all happened so fast. They put in the anesthetic; the dentist rumbled around in my mouth, and then it was over, the teeth were out. I couldn't believe how fast it all went. As with all tooth extractions, the recovery was a bit painful, but nothing like the pain I was experiencing with the cracked tooth.

In my recovery, I am reminded of a saying my Godson Jeremey likes to say to me whenever he knows I am worried. "The only way out is through, my man!" Sometimes we struggle with everyday worries and concerns. We struggle with accepting what we know we have to do to begin to heal. In my experience, God will always give us the path to help us find our way out, sometimes through something we dread, but at the end of it, we are through it and better for it.

## La Única Salida Es De A Través

Una mañana caliente en El Paso en junio puede no ser una exageración para imaginar, pero ni siquiera el calor de este día fue suficiente para distraerme del dolor que sentía mientras estaba sentado nerviosamente en un banco del patio fuera de la oficina de mi dentista.

Debido a las precauciones de COVID-19, la oficina del dentista me había pedido que esperara afuera mientras preparaban la sala de examen. Mientras me sentaba, intenté enfocar mi dolor en la oración, pidiéndole a Dios que me ayudara a eliminar este horrible dolor.

"Fernando Ceniceros", gritó la asistente de la oficina mientras me llamaba para hacerme saber que estaban listos para mí. "Sólo necesito comprobar tu temperatura", añadió. Luego me acompañó

a la sala de examen, donde me senté sola por un par de minutos.

"Por favor, Dios, ayúdame a superar este dolor", recé en mi cabeza. No tenía ni una idea de lo que me iban a decir, pero lo que suelo hacer cuando estoy nerviosa, mi cabeza tiende a sacar lo mejor de mí. Comencé a imaginarme al dentista diciéndome que había que extraer un trozo de mi mandíbula con mi muela del juicio. Me detuve y recé de nuevo, "¡Por favor, Dios, ayúdame a superar este dolor!"

El asistente dental vino muy bien manejó mi caso e hizo radiografías de la parte de mi boca que era la causa de mi dolor. Ella me notó casi temblando y me dijo que no me preocupara; el dentista vendría pronto y me ayudaría a empezar a sentirme mejor. Me hundí en la silla de

examen. Mis manos eran como bloques de hielo; tenía mucho dolor. Todo lo que podía hacer era respirar y rezar.

El dentista finalmente vino y examinó mis dientes. Tan pronto como los miró, dio un suspiro de empatía y dijo: "Oh Dios, siento mucho que te duela tanto". Él examina un poco más y luego se sienta a mi lado. "Lo siento, Sr. Ceniceros, pero parece que vamos a tener que sacar algunos dientes", dice. "No se preocupe, hago esto todos los días y estaré en buenas manos", añade. Luego me cuenta cómo mi muela del juicio inferior derecha ha crecido tanto que se ha roto la muela que está a su lado.

No me lo imaginaba; supongo que una parte de mí siempre había asumido que sólo sería la muela del juicio la que tenía

que salir. Debo haberme puesto pálido porque el doctor pudo ver que no estaba preparado para escuchar las noticias que acababa de oír. "Voy a recetarle un analgésico para que se sienta cómodo durante los próximos días, y quiero que vuelva el miércoles para que le extraigan las muelas", me dijo confiado. Cuando salí de la oficina, sentí una sensación de temor mezclada con una sensación de alivio. Fue una extraña combinación de sentimientos que duró un par de días hasta mi cirugía oral.

Cuando llegó el día de la extracción de mi diente, pensé que estaría más nerviosa de lo que estaba. Pero la cirugía vino y se fue. Todo sucedió tan rápido. Me pusieron el anestésico, el dentista me dio una paliza, y cuando terminó, me sacaron los

dientes. No podía creer lo rápido que fue todo. Como en todas las extracciones dentales, la recuperación fue un poco dolorosa, pero nada como el dolor que estaba experimentando con el diente agrietado.

En mi recuperación, recuerdo un dicho que a mi ahijado Jeremey le gusta decirme cuando sabe que estoy preocupado. "¡La única salida es a través de, amigo mío!" A veces luchamos con las preocupaciones diarias. Luchamos con la aceptación de lo que sabemos que tenemos que hacer para empezar a sanar. En mi experiencia, Dios siempre nos dará el camino para ayudarnos a encontrar nuestra salida, a veces a través de algo que tememos, pero al final, lo superamos y somos mejores por ello.

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## INSEITZ INTO THE FAITH

# The Disturbing Legacy of Racial Discrimination

**S**ince the heartless killing of George Floyd in May our country has wrestled with another spasm of outcries for racial justice. In some cases, the anger has spilled over into violence directed against police and civil authorities in general and even against businesses that serve the very neighborhoods where peoples who suffer from discrimination live. To those who have the luxury of standing on the outside and observing it doesn't seem to make much sense, but emotional outpourings don't usually follow nicely planned rational steps.

Many of us who have not had the opportunity to 'walk a mile in their shoes' find ourselves unable to grasp the generational aspects of racial discrimination as well. We look at slavery as a story that comes to us from centuries past, a moment in history that would have been long forgotten had it not been recorded and retold.

According to the perspective of those who have not lived the experience of racial prejudice daily, racism appears to belong to that past and to a few crazy extremists of our own time. We,

of course, are not racists. Those people have the same rights as we do now. If they would only get over it and move on they would do fine in our color-blind world. "Systemic racism" appears to many to be an illusion or a hallucination. How can white people help it if black men tend to be criminals at much higher rates than whites?

And so, the evasion continues and the generational passage of the wounds going back to centuries old roots and perpetuated in succeeding eras goes on without being honestly addressed.

There are many ways that the perpetuation of this history of racial inequality reveals itself and many ways we can begin to recognize its causes. While there are many plausible ways to look at it I would like to suggest a psychological and spiritual way to understand what is happening.

People were told for generations that they were less than those with white skin. This constant put down was reinforced in myriad ways, people being bought and sold, beaten on a whim by their 'masters', working but not paid, having

their families torn apart, women being used for sexual gratification. Even after laws permitting slavery were abolished, practices of society continued to reinforce the reality and the memory of the diabolical ways that the system of slavery had deprived this people of their history, their language, their culture, their self-worth, their identity.

In the midst of it all people of African descent continued to know the falsity of the attempts to rob them of their dignity, but when the scab of that generational wound is constantly being rubbed off by prejudicial and discriminatory actions, the wound remains. And, perhaps, even more sadly, a person in time may be tempted to believe that he or she may indeed be of little worth. How important it is that African Americans and others stand up and claim the great giftedness that they bring to our American tapestry!

We all need affirmation to become our best selves, to discover the goodness and the gifts that lie within us. Lacking that affirmation, we will likely never come to know our gifts. When we receive the opposite of affir-



Bishop Mark J. Seitz

mation—when we are told that because we have the heritage we do, because our skin is the color it is, that we are no good, that we are to be seen as a threat, that we cannot be trusted, that we can't be intelligent, etcetera, after a while it can take its toll. In response we have to proclaim that black lives matter!

Talk to some Black people sometime and listen to their stories. Hear them as they tell you the ways that they were put down and held down even before they were personally known simply because of the color of their skin. Any healing of these wounds will need to begin with compassionate listening, with the sincere desire to understand.

The Church is exactly the

right place for this to take place. The love and respect and affirmation we show will be the best way to begin to heal generational wounds. The unity our efforts can create across racial and ethnic lines will allow us to recognize and address the structural inequities so deeply rooted in our society. Perhaps it will be the beginning of that new day dreamed of by Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., "When we let freedom ring... we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing... Free at Last!"

## El Inquietante Legado De La Discriminación Racial

**D**esde el despiadado asesinato de George Floyd en mayo nuestro país ha luchado con otro espasmo de clamores por la justicia racial. En algunos casos, la ira se ha derramado en violencia dirigida contra la policía y las autoridades civiles en general e incluso contra los negocios que sirven a los mismos barrios donde viven las personas que sufren de discriminación. Para aquellos que se dan el lujo de estar de pie en el exterior y observarlo no parece tener mucho sentido, pero los arrebatos emocionales no suelen seguir pasos racionales bien planeados.

Muchos de nosotros que no hemos tenido la oportunidad de "caminar una milla en sus zapatos" nos encontramos incapaces de comprender también los aspectos generacionales de la discriminación racial. Vemos la esclavitud como una historia que nos llega de siglos pasados, un momento de la historia que habría sido olvidado hace mucho tiempo si no se hubiera registrado y recontado.

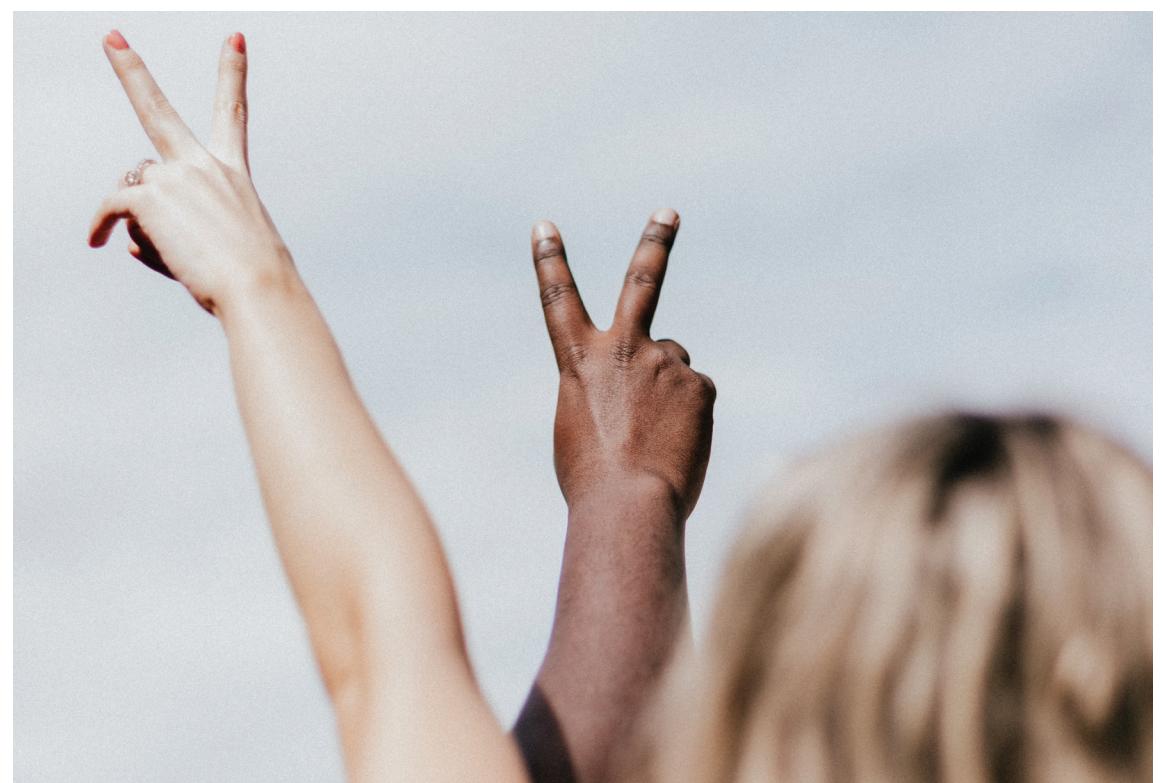
Según la perspectiva de quienes no han vivido diariamente la experiencia del prejuicio racial, el racismo parece pertenecer a ese pasado y a unos pocos extremistas locos de nuestro tiempo. Nosotros, por supuesto, no somos racistas. Esas personas tienen los mismos derechos que nosotros ahora. Si lo superaran y siguieran adelante, les iría bien en nuestro mundo daltónico. El "Racismo sistemático" parece ser para muchos una ilusión o una alucinación. ¿Cómo pueden los blancos evitarlo si los hombres negros tienden a ser criminales en

mayor medida que los blancos? Y así, la evasión continúa y el paso generacional de las heridas que se remontan a raíces centenarias y que se perpetúan en épocas sucesivas continúa sin ser abordado honestamente.

Hay muchas formas en que la perpetuación de esta historia de desigualdad racial se revela y muchas formas en que podemos empezar a reconocer sus causas. Aunque hay muchas maneras plausibles de verlo, me gustaría sugerir una forma psicológica y espiritual de entender lo que está sucediendo.

Durante generaciones se le dijo a la gente que eran menos que los de piel blanca. Esta constante humillación fue reforzada de múltiples maneras, gente siendo comprada y vendida, golpeada por capricho por sus "amos", trabajando pero no pagando, teniendo sus familias destrozadas, mujeres siendo usadas para la gratificación sexual. Incluso después de que se abolieran las leyes que permitían la esclavitud, las prácticas de la sociedad continuaron reforzando la realidad y la memoria de las formas diabólicas en que el sistema de esclavitud había privado a este pueblo de su historia, su idioma, su cultura, su autoestima, su identidad.

En medio de todo ello, todos los afrodescendientes siguieron conociendo la falsedad de los intentos de robarles su dignidad, pero cuando la costra de esa herida generacional se frota constantemente con actos perjudiciales y discriminatorios, la herida permanece. Y, tal vez, lo que es más triste, una persona con el tiempo puede sentirse tentada



a creer que en realidad puede ser de poco valor. ¡Qué importante es que los afroamericanos y otros se pongan de pie y reclamen los grandes dones que traen a nuestro tapiz americano!

Todos necesitamos afirmación para ser lo mejor de nosotros mismos, para descubrir la bondad y los dones que hay dentro de nosotros. Sin esa afirmación, es probable que nunca lleguemos a conocer nuestros dones. Cuando recibimos lo opuesto a la afirmación, cuando se nos dice que porque tenemos la herencia que tenemos, porque nuestra piel tiene el color que tiene, que no somos buenos, que debemos ser vistos como una amenaza, que

no se puede confiar en nosotros, que no podemos ser inteligentes, etcétera, después de un tiempo puede pasar factura. En respuesta tenemos que proclamar que las vidas de los negros son importantes.

Hable con algunos negros alguna vez y escuche sus historias. Escúchelas mientras te cuentan las formas en que fueron sacrificados y retenidos incluso antes de ser conocidos personalmente, simplemente por el color de su piel. Cualquier curación de estas heridas necesitará comenzar con una escucha compasiva, con el sincero deseo de entender.

La Iglesia es exactamente el lugar adecuado para que esto

ocurra. El amor, el respeto y la afirmación que mostramos será la mejor manera de empezar a curar las heridas generacionales. La unidad que nuestros esfuerzos pueden crear a través de las líneas raciales y étnicas nos permitirá reconocer y abordar las desigualdades estructurales tan profundamente arraigadas en nuestra sociedad. Tal vez sea el comienzo de ese nuevo día soñado por el Reverendo Martin Luther King, Jr., "Cuando dejemos que la libertad repique... podremos acelerar ese día en el que todos los hijos de Dios, negros y blancos, judíos y gentiles, protestantes y católicos, podrán unir sus manos y cantar... ¡Libre al fin!"

# 3 Simple Steps Will Keep Virus From Spreading In Churches

By Rev. Michael L. Lewis, STL  
Special to the Rio Grande Catholic

As the number of people afflicted with Covid-19 skyrockets throughout the state and in the diocese, Bishop Mark Seitz is calling on all Catholics to carefully and diligently follow three simple norms that will help prevent the virus from spreading in our churches and elsewhere in our communities: wear a mask, maintain social distancing, and disinfect your hands and surfaces that have been touched.

"These three simple things are the easiest ways to prevent this virus from spreading — whether that be in our churches, workplaces, or stores," said Bishop Seitz. "They have been part of our diocesan guidelines since the beginning of this pandemic, and



they have to become a part of our normal way of life until the virus' threat subsides."

Because the number of new cases have risen so sharply in the last two weeks, Bishop Seitz has decided to remain at Phase

2 of the diocese's phased plan to resume church gatherings. Though the faithful may gather for weekday Masses in churches at 25% of the church's capacity, gathering for Mass on Sunday is not yet allowed. Anyone gather-

ing for Mass must wear a mask and must maintain social distancing. Churches must disinfect any surfaces that were touched after every liturgy.

"Churches that follow these norms to the letter will greatly lower the chance of the virus spreading among those who gather for Mass," Bishop Seitz said. "People who do not strictly follow these norms or become lax will give the virus an opportunity to spread. Remember: the virus has not become any less virulent. But people can easily become complacent."

Medical authorities have been almost unanimous in recommending the wearing of masks because they greatly reduce the chance for the virus to spread in the manner it is most commonly transmitted: inhaling respira-

tory droplets that are regularly expelled as we breathe and talk. Socially distancing — maintaining at least six feet of distance from others, even when wearing a mask — similarly makes it harder for the virus to move from person to person. Washing your hands with soap and water and using sanitizing sprays or wipes on surfaces will kill the virus and keep it from causing harm.

"Doing these things makes clear your care and concern for others," Bishop Seitz said. "Following Jesus' call to 'love your neighbor' is rarely so simply carried out as it is by wearing a mask, keeping apart, and washing your hands. I hope all the faithful will join me in doing their part to keep each other safe."

## 3 Simples Pasos Evitarán Que El Virus Se Propague En Las Iglesias

Por Rev. Michael L. Lewis, STL  
Especial a el Rio Grande Catholic

A medida que el número de personas afectadas por el Covid-19 se dispara en todo el estado y en la diócesis, el Obispo Mark Seitz está llamando a todos los católicos a seguir cuidadosa y diligentemente tres simples normas que ayudarán a prevenir que el virus se propague en nuestras iglesias y en otros lugares de nuestras comunidades: usar un cubrebocas, mantener el distanciamiento social y desinfectar las manos y las superficies que han sido tocadas.

"Estas tres simples cosas son las formas más fáciles de prevenir que el virus se propague, ya sea en nuestras iglesias, en los lugares de trabajo o en las tiendas", dijo el Obispo Seitz. "Han sido parte de nuestras normas diocesanas desde el comienzo de esta pandemia, y tienen que

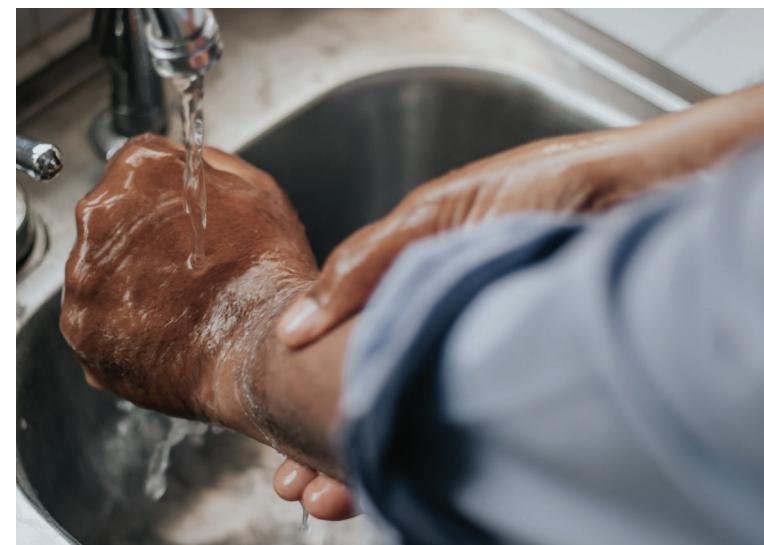
formar parte de nuestra forma de vida normal hasta que la amenaza del virus disminuya".

Debido a que el número de nuevos casos ha aumentado tanto en las últimas dos semanas, el obispo Seitz ha decidido permanecer en la fase 2 del plan de la diócesis para reanudar las reuniones de la iglesia. Aunque los fieles pueden reunirse para las misas de la semana en las iglesias al 25% de la capacidad de la iglesia, la reunión para la misa del domingo todavía no está permitida. Cualquiera que se reúna para la misa debe usar un cubrebocas y debe mantener el distanciamiento social. Las iglesias deben desinfectar cualquier superficie que se haya tocado después de cada liturgia.

"Las iglesias que sigan estas normas al pie de la letra reducirán enormemente la posibilidad de que el virus se propague entre los que se reúnen para la

misa", dijo el Obispo Seitz. "La gente que no siga estrictamente estas normas o se vuelva laxa le dará al virus la oportunidad de propagarse. Recuerden: el virus no se ha vuelto menos virulento. Pero la gente puede fácilmente volverse complaciente".

Las autoridades médicas han recomendado casi unánimemente el uso de cubrebocas porque reducen en gran medida la posibilidad de que el virus se propague de la manera en que se transmite más comúnmente: inhalando gotitas respiratorias que se expulsan regularmente mientras respiramos y hablamos. El distanciamiento social — mantener al menos seis pies de distancia de los demás, incluso cuando se usa una mascarilla — también dificulta que el virus se mueva de una persona a otra. Lavarse las manos con agua y jabón y usar aerosoles o toallitas desinfectantes en las superficies matará el



virus y evitará que cause daño.

"Hacer estas cosas deja claro su cuidado y preocupación por los demás", dijo el Obispo Seitz. "Seguir la llamada de Jesús a 'amar al prójimo' rara vez se lleva a cabo de forma tan sencilla

como usando un cubrebocas, manteniéndose separado y lavándose las manos. Espero que todos los fieles se unan a mí para hacer su parte para mantenerse a salvo".

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER!

Fr. Juan Antonio Gutierrez, OFM	7/3
Fr. Edilberto "Beto" Lopez	7/10
Fr. Kennon Y. Ducre	7/14
Fr. Juan Francisco Figueroa Moran, OFM	7/18
Fr. Antonio Lasheras, OAR	7/20
Fr. Manuel R. Martinez (Extern)	7/30
Fr. Fabian A. Marquez	7/31

## ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Fr. Angel M. Maldonado (OSM)	7/1/1979
Fr. Kennon Y. Ducre	7/6/1983
Fr. Jose Luis Garayoa, OAR	7/11/1976
Msgr. Victor Kayrouz (Extern)	7/12/1964
Fr. Jose Mesa, SJ	7/16/1977
Fr. Rafael Garcia, SJ	7/17/1993
Fr. Antonio Lasheras, OAR	7/25/1962

## ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES (RETIRED)

Fr. Miguel Meneses	7/30/1961
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### Diocese offers assistance for victims of sexual abuse

Bishop Mark J. Seitz invites anyone who has been a victim of sexual abuse by a priest, deacon, religious, or any minister of the church, to contact the Victim's Assistance Coordinator, Mrs. Susan Martinez LCSW, at (915) 872-8465 or the Office of the Chancery, (915) 872-8407. The Church desires the healing of anyone that has been harmed.

### La diócesis ofrece asistencia a las víctimas de abusos sexuales

El Obispo Mark J. Seitz invita a cualquier persona que haya sido víctima de abuso sexual por parte de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o cualquier ministro de la iglesia, a contactar a la Coordinadora de Asistencia a las Víctimas, la Sra. Susan Martínez LCSW, al (915) 872-8465 o a la Oficina de la Cancillería, (915) 872-8407. La Iglesia desea la curación de cualquiera que haya sido dañado.



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# Spiritual Lessons from the Pandemic



Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

The Covid-19 pandemic has left many of us with a great deal of uncertainty: uncertainty about how contagious the virus is and about the best way to treat it; uncertainty about how long our personal immunity will last after we get infected and whether a vaccine will ever be developed; uncertainty about the future of the economy and whether jobs will still be there for the 40 million newly unemployed; uncertainty about how long the public quarantines should continue; uncertainty about what will happen to ourselves, our businesses, our families and our friends.

In the midst of so much uncertainty, we naturally look for something firm to hold onto. Cataclysmic disruptors, whether an outbreak of war, widespread riots and looting, or a new coronavirus, humble us and remind us how we cannot guarantee our own future.

Yet we instinctively yearn for a way to assure and secure that future for ourselves and for our children. Where should we turn for safety?

Maybe we can take a cue from our financial institutions. When uncertainty becomes too high, and lenders realize a potential borrower is at high risk of default, they can sometimes turn to a higher authority like the fed-

eral government to "guarantee" a loan, as in the case of guaranteed student loans. Such loans offer a safety net and take away most risks for the lender.

What kind of higher authority should we be turning to in order to guarantee our future when we face so many uncertainties in life?

One lesson of the pandemic is not to place our hope in underserving sources. While scientists may promise new treatments, and politicians may promise safety through contact tracing and lockdowns, these measures are stopgaps in the face of our larger human questions.

Many centuries ago, a powerful king of the united monarchy of Israel and Judah mused about the false promise of earthly reassurances. Writing in Psalm 119, King David presciently declared, "Some trust in chariots or horses, but we in the name of the Lord. They will collapse and fall, but we shall hold and stand firm."

The answer to the uncertainties surrounding our human condition lies, precisely as David noted in his inimitable and direct style, in God himself. He alone knows and understands every event of history, from coronavirus pandemics to civil disturbances to economic collapses.

It's important for us to distinguish between true and false saviors. While a vaccine may limit the immediate threat from the coronavirus for us individually, death will still have its day and eventually lay its claim upon us. As natural as it may be for us to reach out for a vaccine to calm our preoccupations and restore predictability to our future, only



God opens a real path for us beyond fear and beyond death. Our lives are on loan, and only He can guarantee the fulfillment of that loan in a destiny that lies beyond this troubled world.

Cardinal Robert Sarah summed it up well when he recently said:

"This virus acted as a warning. In a matter of weeks, the great illusion of a material world that thought itself all-powerful seems to have collapsed. ... A microscopic virus has brought this world to its knees..."

"We were promised to push the limits of human nature ever further by a triumphant science. We were told about artificial procreation, surrogate mother-

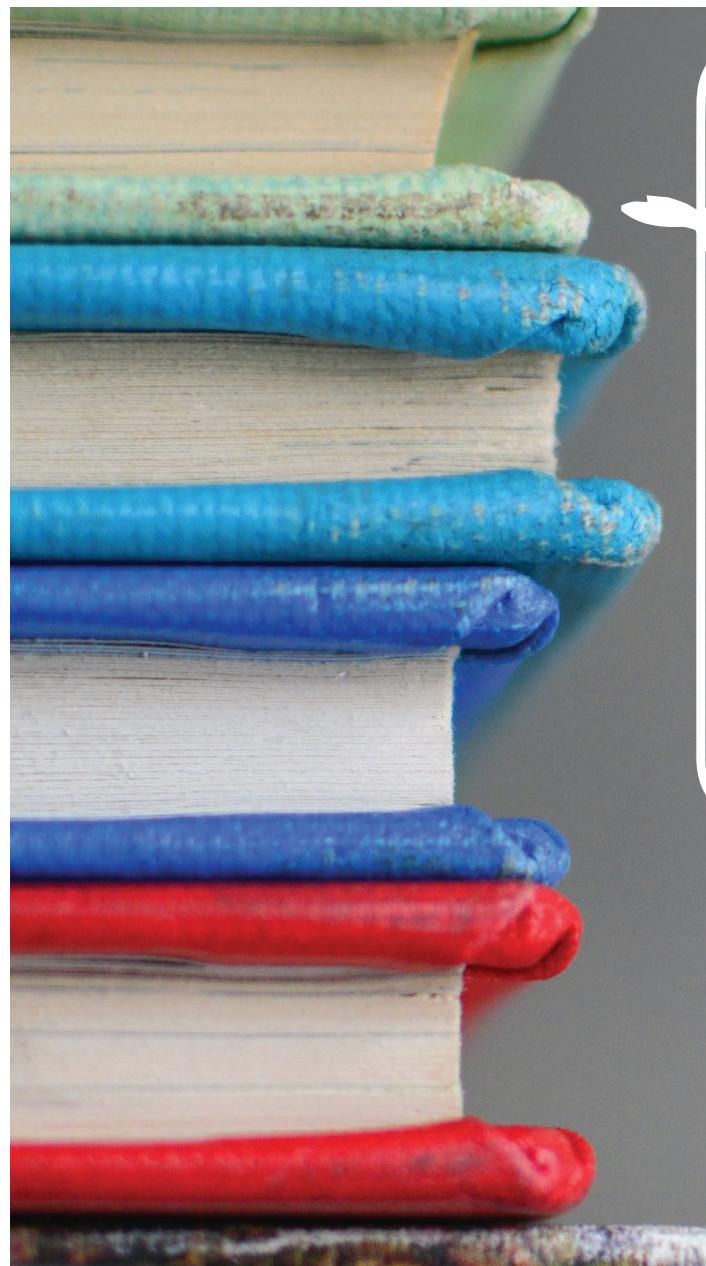
hood, transhumanism, enhanced humanity. We boasted of being a man of synthesis and a humanity that biotechnologies would make invincible and immortal. But here we are in a panic, confined by a virus about which we know almost nothing.

"Epidemic was an outdated, medieval word. It suddenly became our everyday life. I believe this epidemic has dispelled the smoke of illusion. The so-called all-powerful man appears in his raw reality. There he is naked. His weakness and vulnerability are glaring. Being confined to our homes will hopefully allow us to turn our attention back to the essentials, to rediscover the importance of our relationship

with God."

We have an important opportunity to ponder these deeper lessons of the Covid-19 saga as it plays out in our midst. Rather than placing our hopes in the limited promises of this world, the pandemic reminds us of our vulnerability and our need for our true Savior, at every moment of our life.

*Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org)*



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# Continuing The Challenge To Be Kind



Janet M. Crowe

"This year has been filled with some really difficult times," muttered the man to his wife.

She wrapped her arms around her husband's shoulders and held him tightly. "It has been almost a year since that devastating attack on our city last August," she sighed. "I didn't think things could get worse than that, but this year has overflowed with problems."

"You're right, our city was shattered by a terrible act of hatred," he agreed. "However, do you remember how we recovered from that tragedy?"

"The wisdom of a child helped the entire community to heal," she said with a smile. "One little boy challenged everyone to do one act of kindness for each life lost. After going out of their way to be kind and find ways to brighten the lives of others, everyone's attitude seemed to change from victim to healer."

"Maybe we should continue to follow that young boy's wise advice and begin helping other people again," he said, sitting a bit taller in his chair.

"I'd like to do that," his wife quietly responded as she sat down in the chair next to her husband and took his hands in her own. "But we haven't

received our regular paychecks these past few months and most of the things we did during the El Paso Challenge cost us money. We paid for a family's dinner one night and donated money to the food bank and things like that. I want to help, but we don't have extra money to spend right now," she worried.

A small whirlwind of energy carried on two sets of little legs burst into the room, interrupting the couples' discussion.

"Papa, mama, can we run through the sprinkler?" shouted little Carlos and Angela in unison. "Please?"

"I think I have a better idea," their father said. He winked at his wife and grabbed a bucket and some rags from under the kitchen sink. "Last night's rain covered the car with muddy speckles. How about if we wash the car?"

Mama smiled as she looked out the window to see her husband and children spraying each other as much as they sprayed the car, but a furrow creased her forehead as she tried to figure out her husband's wink before he had rushed out the door. She shook her head and returned her attention to the pot of spaghetti sauce simmering on the stove.

Not too much later, three tired but smiling car washers came in the back door, and she helped dry off the little ones before they dripped puddles through the house. "Would you like a cookie after all your hard work?" she asked her children.

"No thanks, Mama," said Carlos. "The lady next door gave us a cookie after we washed her



car."

"You washed our neighbor's car?" asked his mother.

"Yes," answered Angela, "and she seemed lonely so we talked to her while Papa finished washing her car."

"Papa talked to the old man across the street too," Carlos added as he wrapped himself in the towel, "and he's going to let us wash his car tomorrow."

While the children changed out of their wet swimsuits, Mama gave Papa a hug and a wink. Before they sat down to a delicious dinner of spaghetti and garlic bread, she ladled out generous helpings of noodles and sauce into two plastic containers. "Children, before we thank God for the many blessings He gives us, why don't we take these dinners to our elderly neighbors?" she suggested.

"They'll like that!" both children shouted.

A few days later, their father found the two children sorting through the toys in their room and putting some of them in a separate pile. He teased, "That's an interesting way to clean up your room, little ones."

"Oh, Papa," Angela reassured him, "we'll put them away after we take out the baby toys that we are too old to play with anymore."

Seeing his father's confused look, Carlos explained, "Mama talked to some people up the street and found out that they are going to have a new baby."

About that time, his wife came down the hallway. "They were both laid off from their jobs during the pandemic and haven't found new ones yet," she explained. "We also went

through the children's baby clothes and found some that are still good and will fit a newborn. Plus, I called the church office to ask about baby diapers, formula and other necessities, and they gave me the Reverence for Life number to call."

He hugged his wife and told his children how proud he was of their willingness to share.

Later, after the children went to bed, the parents sat on the patio. "Now that things are opening up again, what do you think about having a potluck dinner party for the neighborhood?" the wife asked her husband.

"We have enough room so that it wouldn't be crowded here in our back yard. We've been so busy that we barely even know the families living around us. I'll make up some fliers and the children and I will take them around to everyone."

"That would be wonderful," agreed her husband. "I also know what else you're thinking." He squeezed her hand and added, "You know there are probably several families who need a helping hand during these trying times. Working together with some of the other neighbors, we could make sure that everyone got the help they need."

She smiled at him, "I knew you were a clever guy when I married you."

"Because I was clever enough to marry you," he answered. "It's a great idea. Let's continue the challenge to spread kindness to others so that no one feels like a victim and all of us can heal our hearts and our lives by helping one another."



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# Humildad Y Verdad



Padre Wilson Cuevas

Un turista llega a un pequeño pueblo gallego y pregunta a un paisano de aquellas tierras: Oiga, tienen ustedes en este pueblo algún personaje famoso, alguna figura histórica; nació aquí algún hombre grande? "No, señor, respondió, socarrón, el paisano. Aquí todos nacen "pequeños". Todos nacemos pequeños. Y por más que uno crezca, estudie y tenga éxito en un negocio, en una profesión o en un cargo o empleo; seguimos siendo pequeños insignificantes, dentro del universo en el que vivimos. Realmente, "solo Dios es grande"

La soberbia, además de pecado, ¡es ridículo! y cuantas veces hacemos el ridículo!

La humildad es el camino para aprender, porque en esta combinación encontrarás una poderosa herramienta para crecer. Con humildad aprendes de los demás, de los líderes, de tus maestros, de los que ya lo lograron; seguramente los superaras... ¡Nunca el hombre es tan humilde como cuando reconoce su dependencia en Dios y el absoluto dominio que el creador ejerce sobre todo cuanto existe! El hombre ante las

cosas es amo y señor, Dios le ha dado la facultad de ser administrador de las cosas del mundo. Ante sus semejantes ha de ser respetuoso, compasivo y tratarlos con amor. Solo ante Dios debe doblar la rodilla y con profunda humildad ponerse incondicionalmente a su servicio. Ante las cosas somos amos y señores, ante los demás hombres y mujeres somos hermanos, miembros de la misma familia y ante Dios simples siervos a su servicio. Si olvidamos esto comenzamos a vivir de manera errática...

Cuentan que un joven judío, al realizar un largo viaje en avión, le tocó sentarse junto a un anciano. El joven se mostró altivo, despectivo y grosero. En cuanto pudo le solicitó a la azafata que lo cambiará de lugar. Ella pregunto porqué y el no tuvo reparo en contestar que el viejo de su derecha era insoportable, "tose y apesta", le dijo. Lo cambiaron de lugar. Al llegar a su destino, el muchacho vio una gran comitiva de recibimiento; cientos de personas esperaban con ansias al anciano, que resultó ser un gran rabino. Entonces, arrepentido de su actitud, el joven se acercó para pedirle perdón y solicitarle su bendición, pero el anciano le contesto: "Rechazaste al anciano y te acercas al rabino? Lo siento, pero no puede ser bendecido quien vive en arrogancia, quien no tiene humildad en su corazón. Antes, tendrás que pedir perdón con humildad a todos los ancianos del mundo"

Todos necesitamos una buena dosis de humildad, desinflar nuestro ego. Hay personas que se creen indispensables; les parece que, si ellos no estuvieran, todo se hundiría. La realidad es que nadie somos imprescindible. Y si hay una tarea que nos parece que solo nosotros sabemos hacer, es muy bueno enseñar a otros a hacerla, para que puedan sustituirnos. Hace falta humildad para no creernos imprescindibles, y generosidad para transmitir experiencias. Vivimos en una época de grandes maravillas y contrastes. Un muchacho de diecisiete años sabe más hoy que un sabio de hace un siglo. Tiene mayores ventajas. Pero esto no quiere decir que los valores y la justicia van en aumento. Tenemos mucho cuidado.

La humildad es fuente de grandes bienes y es campo en el que florece la amistad y el amor. La humildad crea cercanía y rompe distancias, fomenta una sincera comunicación. Con una persona sencilla se dan buenas relaciones, porque es incapaz de ofender, oprimir o de despreciar a los demás. Esa verdadera humildad, que es todo lo contrario de humillarse. Se basa en la conciencia clara de lo que somos. Se identifica con lo que Santa Teresa de Jesús llamaba "el propio conocimiento" Conocer mis luces y mis sombras. Soy humilde cuando reconozco mis cualidades con autoestima, al

tiempo que acepto mis defectos y limitaciones. Soy humilde al tener siempre a Dios como punto de referencia en todo lo bueno; como la Virgen María: "El Señor hizo en mi maravillas". No puede haber soberbia en aquel que obra en Dios, con Dios y para Dios; es un ser sencillo y por lo mismo, alguien que goza de buenas relaciones. (S. Lc. 1, 48ss)

Algo que todos debemos aprender de esta Pandemia del Covid-19, es ser más humildes.

Reconocer que no sabemos ni podemos hacerlo todo. ¡Que Dios lo hace mejor! El hombre construye rascacielos cada vez más altos, torres de Iglesias, bases para lanzar cohetes, instala satélites en el espacio... Dios enciende la Vía Láctea, crea el universo y un conjunto de sistemas planetarios verdaderas maravillas que apenas comenzamos a descubrir a la distancia. Creo el cerebro humano, obra magistral, de incalculables capacidades y que encierra misterios que todavía no alcanzamos a comprender. Dios nos invitó a la vida y a su creación como hijos y amigos. Nos incita a recibir, amar y compartir. "Señor, Dios nuestro, que admirable es tu obra en toda la tierra" (Salmo 8,2), o como afirma San Pablo: "En el vivimos, nos movemos y existimos" (Hech 17,28). Seguimos en medio de esta Pandemia del Coronavirus; la vida nos ha cambiado de manera drástica e inesperada, los problemas y las

crisis se han hecho más grandes y reconocemos lo vulnerable y frágiles que somos como criaturas del universo. La tecnología nos ha servido y ayudado pero el problema del Covid-19 persiste. Buscamos desesperadamente la solución mediante una vacuna, pero todavía no se logra. Suplicamos a Dios con fe y esperanza que con su misericordia y compasión nos ayude a salir victoriosos de esta Pandemia. Quizás nunca como en este tiempo hemos pensado y rezado a Dios, pidiéndole clemencia y piedad por todos los seres humanos. Nos hemos dado cuenta que somos una sola familia, que lo que beneficia a unos, en definitiva, nos beneficia a todos y lo que afecta a unos, termina afectando a todos; compartir el mismo hogar, el planeta tierra que todos debemos ser responsables de cuidarlo y mantenerlo limpio de todo lo que contamine el ambiente, el cuerpo o el espíritu, para bien de todos.

Podremos ser derribados, pero no derrotados; nunca nos desanimemos en las luchas diarias, porque Dios está con nosotros. (2 Corintios 4, 8ss) Aprendamos del dicho de Aristóteles: "El hombre inteligente nace aprendiendo y muere aprendiendo" El ser inteligente se capacita sin cesar, no es engreído ni inflexible y cree que de todos puede aprender algo valioso. ¡En la humildad está la verdadera grandeza!

# Humility And Truth

A tourist comes to a small Galician town and asks a countryman from those lands: "Say, do you have in this town some famous person, some historical figure; a great man born here? No, sir, replied the countryman slyly. Here, everyone is born "small"..." We are all born small. And as much as we all grow, study and succeed in a business, in a profession or in a position or job; we remain insignificant small ones, within the universe in which we live. In truth, "only God is great" Pride, in addition to sin, is ridiculous and yes, how often we make fools of ourselves!

Humility is the way to learning, because in this combination you will find a powerful tool to grow. With humility you learn from others, from leaders, from your teachers, those who have already achieved; perhaps you will even surpass them ... Man is never as humble as when he recognizes his dependence on God and the absolute dominion that the Creator exercises over everything that exists! Man, before things, is master and lord, God has given him the power to be administrator of the things of the world. Before his fellow men he must be respectful, compassionate and treat them with love. Only before God should he bend his knee and with deep humility

put himself unconditionally at His service. Before things we are masters and lords, before other men and women we are brothers, members of the same family, and before God, simple servants at His service. If we forget this, we begin to wander erratically...

They say that a Jewish young man, on a long plane trip, had to sit next to an old man. The young man was haughty, contemptible, and rude. As soon as he can, he asks the flight attendant to change his seat. She asked why and he did not hesitate to answer that the old man on his right was unbearable, "he coughs and smells," he said. They moved him. Upon arriving at his destination, the young man saw a large group assembled waiting; hundreds of people eagerly awaiting to welcome the old man, who turned out to be a great Rabbi. Then, regretting his attitude, the young man approached him to ask for forgiveness and ask for his blessing, but the old man replied: "You rejected the old man and yet you approach the rabbi? Sorry, but he who lives with arrogance and does not have humility in his heart cannot be blessed. Before I give you my blessing you will have to ask for forgiveness with humility to all the elderly of the world"

We all need a good dose of humility, to deflate our ego. There

are people who believe they are indispensable; it seems to them that if they not there, everything will collapse. The reality is that nobody is that essential. And if there is a task that we think only we know how to do, it would be good to teach others to do it, so that they can replace us. It takes humility to not believe ourselves essential, and generosity to share experiences. We live in a time of great wonders and contrasts. A seventeen-year-old boy knows more today than a wise person a century ago. He has greater advantages. But this does not mean that values and justice are on the rise. Let's be very careful. Humility is a source of great wealth and a field in which friendship and love flourish. Humility creates closeness and breaks distances, encourages sincere communication. Good relationships happen with a simple person, because he is unable to offend, oppress or despise others. That true humility, which is the complete opposite of arrogance, is based on a clear awareness of who we are, and is identified with what Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus called "our proper knowledge". Knowing my brightness and my shadows. I am humble when I recognize my qualities with self-esteem, while accepting my defects and limitations. I am humble to always

have God as a point of reference in everything good; like the Virgin Mary: "The Lord has done great things for me." There can be no pride in him who works in God, with God and for God; He is a simple being and therefore, someone who enjoys good relationships with all. (Luke 1: 48)

Something we all must learn from this Covid-19 Pandemic is to be humbler. Recognize that we do not know and cannot do everything. God does it better! Man builds higher and higher skyscrapers, church towers, bases to launch rockets, installs satellites in space ... God lights the Milky Way, creates the universe and a set of planetary systems, true wonders that we are just beginning to discover in the distance. He created the human brain, a masterpiece, of incalculable capacities which contains mysteries that we have yet to understand. God invited us to life and to His creation as children and friends. He encourages us to receive, love and share. "Lord, our God, how awesome is your name in all the earth" (Psalm 8:2), or as Saint Paul affirms: "In Him we live, we move and we exist" (Acts 17:28). We continue in the midst of this Coronavirus Pandemic; life has changed drastically and unexpectedly; the problems and crises have become bigger and we recognize how vulnerable and

fragile we are as creatures of the universe. Technology has served and helped us but the problem of the Covid-19 persists. We are desperately looking for the solution by means of a vaccine, but it is still not available. We pray to God with faith and hope that with His mercy and compassion He will help us to emerge victorious from this Pandemic. Perhaps like never before we have thought and prayed to God, asking for mercy and compassion for all human beings. We have come to realize that we are a single family that what benefits some, in short, benefits all, and what affects some, ends up affecting everyone, sharing the same home, our planet earth. And we should all be responsible for taking care of it and keeping it clean from everything that contaminates the environment, the body or the spirit, for the good of all. We may be torn down or defeated, but not destroyed; we are never discouraged in daily struggles, because God is with us. (2 Corinthians 4:8.) Let us learn from Aristotle's saying: "The intelligent man is born learning and he dies learning" The intelligent being is constantly being trained, he is not conceited or inflexible and knows that he can learn valuable lessons from everyone. In humility is true greatness!



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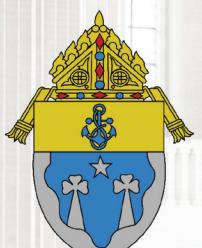
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