

4.4.2020

Good day church family of St. Edwards!

I hope and pray this message finds you and your loved ones all well!

Each morning when I get up, I watch the sunrise from my patio, and hear the cardinals singing, the doves cooing, birds chirping, squirrels running around chasing each other and looking for food and the rabbits getting their morning nourishment before going back to their safe haven for the day. Nothing has changed for them; their morning ritual that has been cultivated in their natural instincts, goes on as normal. However, for many of us we are not as fortunate as our friends of nature!

I was looking at news on-line and I saw a church sign that read:

“HAD NOT PLANNED ON GIVING UP QUITE THIS MUCH FOR LENT”

A lot of truth is in this message, as far as what is being given up, depends who you are?

During this Lent, the doctors, nurses, first responders, and military, never could have foreseen the magnitude of giving up so much time from their families and relying so much on their God given talents and instincts while risking their lives daily to save others!

For most of us, we have given up more than we expected during this Lent. Our daily and weekly routines of going shopping, going to school, dining out, going to work, and worshipping has been replaced with staying home. We are now catching up on our projects, finding more quiet time to read, meditate, pray or just have a good old conversation with your family and/or a friend. Being introduced to technology to bring the outside world to your living room and experiencing a new way to meet with each other. Undertaking new responsibilities to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. If we need to venture from our homes, we learned a new phrase and action to be taken during this Lent that is now part of our vocabulary and physical movement: *social distancing*.

I have watched more recently prominent leaders as well representative from the World Health Organization who have now renamed social distancing. There is a different perspective on the phrase. The new catch phrase is “physical distancing and social togetherness”. When you take time to reflect upon this, “physical distancing and social togetherness”, we are “physically” 6 feet from each other but at the same time making a “togetherness commitment” with and for each other to

fight and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We are doing exactly what Jesus told us to do “to love your neighbor as yourself”. It is agape love, *a spiritual love, a selfless love of one person for another, a strong emotion of regard*; this makes us who we are to be – ambassadors in the name of Jesus and love of Jesus.

Karin and I enjoy Broadway shows, especially musicals. In 1989, the musical, *Aspect of Love* made its debut. The music is by Andrew Lloyd Webber, and lyrics by Don Black and Charles Hart. The featured song from this play is *Love Changes Everything*, it was made famous by Michael Ball. In the link below you will find him and hosts of others performing this song. If you are not familiar with this song, I recommend you listen to it once and then again. But the second time when you hear the word love, think of the love Jesus has for each of us. Think of the word share. When the love of Jesus is felt and shared with others, “nothing in the world will ever be the same!”

Copy this link into your internet browser: <https://youtu.be/WnOQ1VV3CqU>

Let us Pray:

Heavenly Father full of compassion and love: Be close to those who are ill, afraid, or in isolation. In their loneliness, to be their consolation; in their anxiety, to be their hope; in their darkness, to be their light. Give perseverance yet patience and to keep safe the doctors, nurses, first responders and military who are on the front lines confronting this epidemic and for the scientists who are working to discover a cure for this virus. Be with our families, friends and neighbors, to protect them from this virus and all illnesses. To guide them while, awake, O Lord, and guard them while sleeping; that awake it is known that you are at their side and asleep to be at peace and at rest in your loving embrace. In Jesus name we pray. Amen!

Blessings,

Deacon Bob