

Dear People of God,

Our Lenten journey continues. However, we are living in very difficult times and our world has been turned upside down. Mass suspended. Restaurants closed. Weddings postponed. Large gatherings prohibited. Airplanes empty. Baseball suspended. NCAA March Madness canceled. The list goes on and on and on! Things changing daily and hourly and we are in the midst of a disruptive catastrophe. Yet, in the good days of life and the difficult days of our life God is with us. Take a deep breath. Fear and panic accomplish nothing. Loss of reason is futile. Again, God is with us. I firmly believe with the grace and help of God this too shall pass. However, I am a realist and firmly believe in the need to put strong measures into practice to halt this pandemic.

As our Lenten Season moves into the last couple of weeks, it is important to take an inventory of our Lenten journey at this point despite the coronavirus. Lent is both a time of giving up and an opportunity for giving. At the same time, we can place a positive spin on this Holy Season and filter life through a different lens – through the eyes of Christ. I share with you the following story as an opportunity to view Lent through the lens of Jesus.

How to Dance in the Rain

It was a busy morning, about 8:30, when an elderly gentleman in his 80's arrived to have stitches removed from his thumb. He said he was in a hurry as he had an appointment at 9 a.m. I took his vital signs and had him take a seat, knowing it would be over an hour before someone would be able to see him. I saw him looking at his watch and decided, since I was not busy with another patient, I would evaluate his wound.

On exam, it was well healed, so I talked to one of the doctors and got the needed supplies to remove his sutures and redress his wound.

While taking care of his wound, I asked him if he had another doctor's appointment this morning, as he was in such a hurry. The gentleman told me no, that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife. I inquired as to her health. He told me that she had been there awhile and that she had Alzheimer's Disease. As we talked, I asked if she would be upset if he was a bit late. He replied that she no longer knew who he was, that she had not recognized him in five years now. I was surprised, and asked him, "And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?" He smiled as he patted my hand and said, "She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is."

I had to hold back tears as he left. I had goose bumps on my arm and thought, "That is the kind of love I want in my life."

True love is neither physical nor romantic. True love is an acceptance of all that is, has been, will be, and will not be. The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the best of everything they have.

“Life isn’t about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain.”

Lent isn’t about how to survive the Season, but how to Dance to Easter Joy despite what we are experiencing at this time. At the same time, I share with you a recent beautiful prayer entitled: *Prayer Against Coronavirus*.

Lord Jesus Christ, our Divine Physician, we ask you to guard and protect us from Coronavirus COVID-19 and all serious illness. For all that have died from it, have mercy; for those that are ill now, bring healing. For those searching for a remedy, enlighten them; for medical caregivers helping the sick, strengthen and shield them. For those working to contain the spread, grant them access; for those afraid, grant peace. May your precious blood be our defense and salvation. By your grace, may you turn the evil of disease into moments of consolation and hope. May we always fear the contagion of sin more than any illness. We abandon ourselves to your infinite mercy. Amen.

-Pedro de la Cruz

Difficult days ahead? Absolutely, yes! However, God is with us. Like the woman at the well in last Sunday’s Gospel who came to put her hope and trust in the Lord Jesus, we are invited and challenged to do the same. God is with us at every moment. If you get a better offer take it!

Praying with you,
Fr. Greg

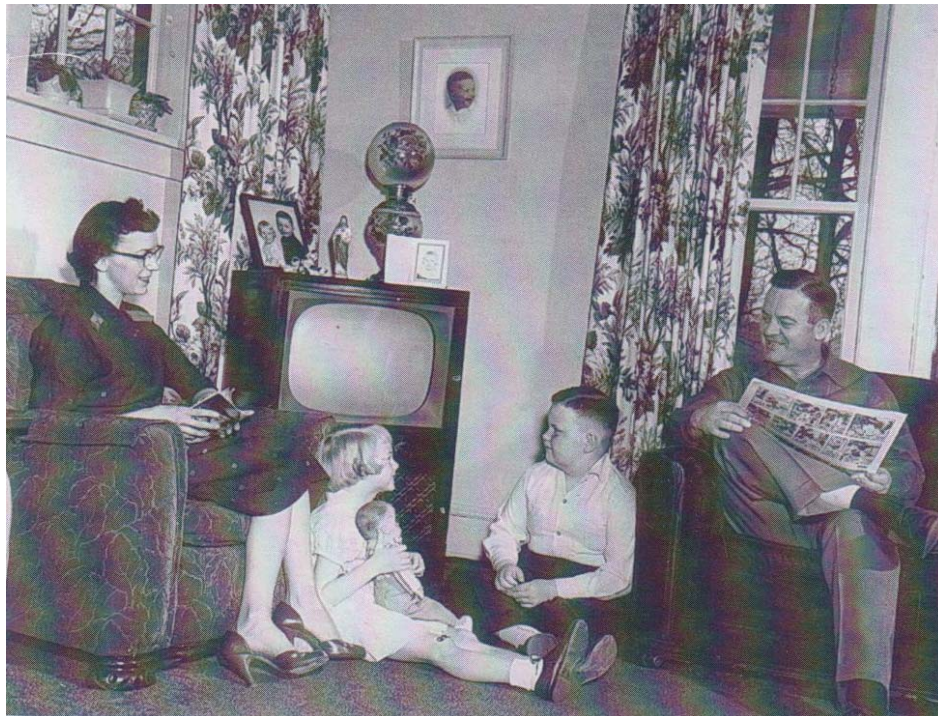
P.S. What makes a parish great? This is a question every pastor asks periodically. The answers are many, but one response every pastor often hears: strong leadership and dedicated volunteers. And this is true for Holy Name Cathedral Faith Community.

I have known about Holy Name Cathedral all of my life. When I arrived as your Rector in 2016, I quickly became aware of the talent, energy, commitment and extensive outreach of what makes this community of faith so strong and vibrant. Today I am encouraging you to consider continuing this tradition.

Our Parish Pastoral Council (advisors to the Rector), our Human Concerns Commission (service to people in need), our Faith Formation Commission (lifelong faith development) our Parish Life Commission (building community), and our Young Adult Board (parishioners 21-39): all of these ministries are active and vital because their current members answered this same invitation I am making to you - a call to serve! As they have made a difference and impact, so can you!

As your Rector, I invite you to learn more about the upcoming information meetings and discernment process by contacting HNCdiscernment@gmail.com. I would be proud to welcome you to the leadership of our wonderful Faith Community. Please step forward. You are the church. You are the Body of Christ. If not now, when? If not me, who?

Humor from the Rector



“You know, Mom. The best part about watching Mass with Fr. Greg on the YouTube channel from Holy Name Cathedral is that we can fast forward his homily!”