

Psalm 46 reminds us: “Be still, know that I am God.” As one of the Facebook memes notes, God has sent us to our rooms. Now is a time where we can find out what is important, and what is not. We are usually so busy, so noisy, but now we face a time of quiet, of isolation, of shut down. We can forget that God is the center of our life. Now is a time to learn that God is in control, not us, not our politicians, not our celebrities. Yet, we are able to control, through prayer and the grace of God and gift of the Holy Spirit, our response to what is going on. It can be a time to respond in trust in God, and in charity to our neighbors.

We are experiencing a real “desert” this Lent. We have no sacraments available. We have electronic feed Masses and prayer times. We are teleworking for work or school. We face a true time of fasting. Fasting is not a period of avoiding sinful things and behaviors. We are supposed to be doing that anyway. Fasting is always the giving up of a good, so as to grow closer to God. It is not supposed to be an open-ended period of time, but a set period of time. We face our cross this Lent, and part of it is that we do not know when it will be over.

We trust in God, and use the time to rediscover (maybe) what can be important. Besides teleworking and tele-schooling, we can enjoy home-cooked meals, and teach our children how to cook. We can teach them about family time, by putting aside the electronic devices and re-discovering family time. Dig out the decks of cards, the games, and use the imagination. We can set up family prayer time, and offer those prayers up for the sick, the medical personnel, and our emergency services. We can use this time for prayer, for reflection, and for leisure.

The Transfiguration was a reminder to Peter, James, and John, that our Lord had to walk the way of the cross in order to attain the glory of the Resurrection. This, too, shall pass. It can be a way of experiencing our cross(es), while walking with the Lord Jesus during this time of Lent. It is a time of darkness, craziness, and doubt, but all things are in God’s hands. We have an opportunity to surrender to God, to slow down, to experience the desert of Lent. But please remember, Lent is of a set time, and is not endless. Let us offer up, pray, and prepare, so we may truly experience to full joy and glory of Easter.

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