

WELCOME TO THE CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY !

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Father Kevin
McKenna
Rector, Cathedral
Community

I recently came upon an article about "Searching for God." Many of us believe that we have "found" God. After all, we were baptized, confirmed and go to Mass (maybe by livestream?) But in the midst of the pandemic, we might have wondered about God. Why is he allowing this to happen? What about all the things in my life that might be going wrong? What's happening?

The good news is that God is alive and well! God might even use these difficult circumstances to search for you! God wants us to find him. The article made many suggestions if we need to look for God.. Let me share a few:

Pray. Ask God to help you to find him. Ask him to reveal himself to you if you are struggling right now. Prayer is entering into conversation with God. And stopping also to listen. So from your heart, tell God that you need to know that he is there.

Focus on a search for Jesus. If we want to know what God is like, we have only to study Jesus. St. Paul wrote that Jesus is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15). When we look at Jesus we see the God who cannot be seen. The more we read and reflect on Jesus the better we come to know of God's compassion and love for us.

Do spiritual reading. See how others have grappled with the same questions that you are asking and read how they dealt with them. Reflect on how they came to know God and whether the approach might be helpful for you.

Talk with others. Find people — maybe even family or friends or co-workers — who seem to evidence that they are living their faith in Jesus. Ask how they discovered Jesus — how did they search? Why do they believe? How do they continue to discover more about God and maintain their relationship with God?

Keep a journal. I mentioned in a previous article how helpful keeping a journal can be. Record your thoughts, questions and discoveries about God as you continue to see how God is already working in your life.

Spend time in nature. Look around you and see all that God has created. If we take time, the beauty of nature can overwhelm us and draw us close to God.



Jesus has said: Ask and you shall receive; seek and you will find. Knock and it will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7). Stop, be still, and let Jesus find you.

THE CROSS OF JESUS

Ginny Miller, Director of Music

I've been excited since we announced our community's "Cross Project." It brought me back to the cross I invited then seven-year-old granddaughter Alyssa to draw, to accompany my Good Friday *News Notes* reflection last year. Alyssa's cross (see picture) carried me through Good Friday as it adorned our mantle surrounded by candles. We moved it to our front door Easter morning as we left for an Easter egg hunt on their front lawn, watching Alyssa and her brother Ethan from our car. With the added wreath it accompanied us through the entire Easter season, longer perhaps, as I didn't want to take the weather-beaten cross off the door.

What was it about the cross? That Alyssa made it? Yes. That her child's view, its many colors, dots, straight and curly lines and decorated egg, reminded me of God's beautiful and diverse world, including us? Yes. In my heart I knew she was connecting the cross to Easter — they made sense together, they belonged together. That's what brought me hope and carried me through family separations, a closed cathedral, a work furlough, and much more. A seven-year-old's drawing reminded me the cross of Good Friday leads to the promise of Easter — and that I was not alone. The Lord of the cross and resurrection was at my side.

That was a year ago. We've seen and carried many crosses between March 2020 and March 2021: loss, sickness and death; poverty and concern for the most vulnerable; scenes of racial injustice and violence. We long for so much: a return to normalcy, health, peace, justice, steadiness, something to hold on to, a return to church, an end to isolation, anxiety, economic insecurity and fear.

Will you join us this Lent in our Cross Project? We carry many crosses. We hope that sharing them will help us carry them together and reflect on how they connect us to the cross of Jesus.



If you haven't already, please send to Joe Muller (joseph.muller@dor.org) by **March 15:**

1. A photo of a cross or crucifix that is meaningful to you.
2. A short description of that meaning.
3. And anonymously, if you choose, a very short description of the cross you personally carry this year. You can email this to Joe also, or mail or drop it off at the cathedral. **No names will be used in this part of the project.**

"Only you can win our freedom; only you can bring us peace. Only in the cross of Jesus... Lead us to the cross of Jesus... Join us to the cross of Jesus.. Here within the cross of Jesus, help us set our living right." ("The Cross of Jesus," by Francis Patrick O'Brien, #396 in our hymnal © 1966 GIA Publications. All rights reserved. Used with permission of OneLicense)

REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Candice Johnson, Parish Minister

"Lord, you have the words of everlasting life." (Psalm 19)

During our Lenten pilgrimage, perhaps we can take time for *Lectio Divina*, the slow, prayerful reading and reflection on one of the upcoming Sunday scripture passages. I am particularly drawn to the Psalms. For this year of pandemic and uncertainty, the words of the Lord "refresh the soul."

The cross we carry during this penitential season bears witness to our struggles and hard work, as we aim to live our Christian faith. But God is ready to meet us and draw us into relationship at any moment. Consider discovering a morsel of time during the day — early morning, lunch time, during a walk, while driving to work — to ponder that one line from Sunday's readings that captures your attention. If we patiently listen and respect God's teachings, our road to new life will be "sweeter than honey from the comb."