**6th Easter A 2020**

I’ve been mildly amused by all the pontificating and theorizing and philosophizing that’s been going around these past few months. Everybody’s got an opinion: Politicians, medical experts, news media, the common man on the street…everybody’s got an opinion. And then there’s God. We remember him, don’t we? It’s still his world, you know…always was…always will be.

If we examine all the way back to the time man set foot on this earth we will notice how God has had to periodically step in and save the day…save us from destroying ourselves. You see, God gives us a very long rope…free will we call it. God let’s us do pretty much whatever we want to do. But he pays very close attention…and he always has that rope tied around our waist. And when he sees us falling off a cliff, he pulls us back just before we crash into the ground.

So here’s a few examples in history where God has had to intervene…**by allowing tragic things to happen**, in order to save humankind. Beginning with our very first parents…expelling Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden. “You want to be your own God,” he tells them. “O.k. let’s see how well you make it on your own.” The story of Noah and the great flood. The enslavement of the Israelite nation in Egypt. The Babylonian exile. The Great Schism separating the Eastern and western churches. The Reformation which splintered Christianity into hundreds of pieces. The plague, all the world wars, 9-11. And the worst of them all: the Crucifixion of his only begotten Son. These are all tragic events which God had to allow in order to get our attention, reset our minds, and remind us who’s really in control and what this life on earth is really all about.

So why Covid-19, and why now? Why did God have to yank on that rope and say, “Enough!” I don’t know, I’m not God, but I think I can come up with some pretty good guesses. For starters, maybe he’s fed up with all the ism’s that have been consuming us: Materialism, individualism, hedonism. Maybe he’s fed up with partisan politics and trying to get our national and world leaders to work together for the common good for a change. He’s certainly got to be sick and tired of watching us destroy all those innocent lives that he created in their mother’s wombs. Maybe he shut down our churches and places of worship to make us realize how much we have been taking them for granted. Maybe he’s tired of hearing people say, “Aw, I can skip mass this weekend…it’s no big deal.” Maybe this time away was intended to reawaken our hunger and thirst and need for him. Maybe he just wanted to see dad’s playing ball with their kids in the back yard. Maybe he just wanted to see families sitting at a dinner table together…share a simple meal…and get to know one another a little better.

Friends, whatever God’s reasons were for allowing this pandemic, let’s not kill the momentum. Let’s continue to mine all the graces that he intends to come from it all. And may God continue to bless each and every one of us.