

Last night I watched this rather *intense* movie called *A Quiet Place*. It's an *intense* hour-and-a-half spent with a family in constant *survival* mode. If they make the slightest sound, a seemingly undefeatable predator, Strikes them *dead* in one fell swoop! The family seems to be isolated -- if not the last family on earth. And the *irony* is, their *strength* lies in their *weakness*.

The oldest daughter is deaf after her cochlear implant fails. So the family is well-versed in sign language, freeing them to communicate in *silence* -- Staying in a *Quiet Place* against their enemy who could pounce with but one *peep*.

The father, played by John Krasinski, Seems a mighty hero, protecting his wife and children. And the eldest daughter becomes *angry* with him -- Feeling hopelessly *trapped* by predators on the *one* hand -- And *chained* to a life of isolation set up for their safety. In the end, the predators seem to have the upper hand, Seizing upon the *once*-quiet place of their homestead.

*Spoiler Alert!* Don't listen if you're going to watch *A Quiet Place*! But if you do, you'll be ready for *A Quiet Place II* coming soon! One of the sons and the daughter were in the grasp of the enemy, And all the Father could do was to cry out in a loud voice -- A voice both *desperate* and *determined*. The cry for those he loved more than his own life. The cry that would save his children by giving himself over to the power of death.

Does this sound *familiar* to anyone? My friends, this is an image of our Christ. The God who loves us more than His own life. The God who cried his last on the cross, so *we* may live. The cross speaks to us the same message that father gave his children before saving them. He simply said: "I love you. I have *always* loved you." In that act of self-donation, Christ frees us from the power of evil and death -- *Not* by displaying power and violence that the world is all too familiar with -- Only breeding *more* violence and death. But in making Himself *vulnerable* -- Answering evil with *good* -- Answering hate and destruction with love and creation of something *totally new*.

*We* are that new creation. A people trapped in fear of the mortal enemy -- Chained in isolation from our loving God. Maybe we can identify in our isolation from the Eucharist and from one another. But rest assured, Christ loves us. He *always* loved us. And he always *will*.

He's already in the depths of any darkness or dread or doubt or suffering or death we endure.

And He will lift us up into *His* embrace, and raise us up *With* Him. So no matter the worry or woe of our days and nights right now, *take heart! Rejoice!* For Christ is Risen! In His lowliness, he defeated the seemingly undefeatable foe of evil and death. Will we *run* to Him when He cries out for us? Or will we let ourselves be scattered by the enemy? It's up to *us*. May we love as Jesus loves: Ready to lose our lives only to have Him save them -- Ready to be the weakest so He can make us the strongest -- Ready to be last so He can make us first. Love one another as He has loved us. *Stay* in His Risen Body -- scared from our wounds along with His -- And *nothing* that can break that bond of perfect charity.