

Thy Kingdom Come!

March 20, 2020



REGNUM CHRISTI
ATLANTA

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Dear friends,

Just a few thoughts concerning the times we are living and the ultimate purpose of this providential pandemic. Yes, from a spiritual point of view this is a dark night engulfing the world.

Divine Providence. The Lord tells us:

Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 "So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows. Matthew 10:28-31

So, our faith tells us that if God allows evil, it is only in view of a greater good. The Lord is telling us something. He is communicating to us. He is allowing a global pandemic for a purpose. What's the message?

Back in the 18th century Fr. Jean Pierre De Caussade SJ wrote about the Blessed Virgin Mary:

Her spirit, transported with joy, looked upon all that she had to do or to suffer at each moment as the gift of Him who fills with good things the hearts of those who hunger and thirst for Him alone, and have no desire for created things.¹

I believe that Pope Francis has been hinting at it. Our society has fallen into an extreme individualism that is destroying our family bonds and the duty of solidarity:

The individualism of our postmodern and globalized era favors a lifestyle which weakens the development and stability of personal relationships and distorts family bonds.²

¹ De Caussade, Jean-Pierre, Abandonment to divine providence, Herder, St. Louis 1921.

² Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, n. 67.

...Nobody is suggesting a return to the Stone Age, but we do need to slow down and look at reality in a different way, to appropriate the positive and sustainable progress which has been made, but also to recover the values and the great goals swept away by our unrestrained delusions of grandeur.³

This is what God is forcing us to do. He is allowing us to spend more time at home. We are under a state of national emergency. Travel is restricted. Major league and college sports championships and events have been canceled, gatherings of more than 10 people are restricted. Hollywood is being affected. Disney is closed. Movie theaters are closed. In some cities, even restaurants and bars are closing. Entire countries are under quarantine, people forced to stay at home.

I believe that this is a call to take a hard look and examine our lifestyle. This examination of conscience should take place at an individual level but also at a family level. Hence, I encourage families to talk about this. This Lent should be a moment of conversion and detachment of inordinate affections on created things.

This is what our community is doing. We are also slowing down to focus on our community life, to focus on how we live charity and a Christ-like spirit among ourselves. I invite you to do the same. Even the Pope is encouraging families to show more affection, tenderness and care during these moments.

From the point of view of our Regnum Christi communal activities we recommend that you have virtual encounters and avoid leaving your homes. We have been canceling retreats and we will be monitoring future events as time goes by. Spiritual direction can be done online or over the phone. Finally, we recommend that you take advantage of live streamed Masses. You will find one at the Legionaries of Christ Facebook page. Please follow the guidelines of the Archdiocese when in doubt.

We have the hope that a greater good will come out from this pandemic. In spite of all this suffering we are grateful to God for his providential care and we pray for one another, that our faith, charity, and hope may grow stronger by the day

- Fr. Lino Otero, LC / RC Local Director - Southeast USA

³ Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, no. 114.