

Hi Friends and Members of Holy Spirit, let me open with a prayer: FOR GOD'S PROTECTION; **Almighty and merciful God, in your goodness keep us, we pray, from all things that may hurt us, that we, being ready both in mind and body, may accomplish with free hearts what belongs to your purpose.** (*Prayers New and Old from Forward Movement*).

We are living in a time of great anxiety and each day the news seems to be getting worse. The Virus is mostly the focus of all news we hear or see. Daily the numbers seem to be increasing and that is because each day more testing is being done. The problem is that everyone who wants a test can't get one. Tests are given primarily to people who have symptoms high fevers and difficulty in breathing. Why is this? There are not enough tests available and likewise there are not enough medical resources available. So in order to benefit the ones who need it most, the test and medical resources are rationed (given to the ones who need it).

It may not seem fair, but it is necessary to try to save lives.

This is not the first time there has been diseases that threatened the lives of people throughout the world. Think about the, Bubonic Plague, Cholera, Swine Flu, Ebola and let's not forget Polio. The polio epidemic is one the majority of us can remember and probably the first effort we made to combat a disease. This was a disease that attacked primarily the young causing them to wear metal leg braces and in some instances be placed in an iron lung. It did also attack some adults

Do you remember the March of Dimes campaign, the slotted card that you placed your dimes in that was handed out in school, the sugar cube that had a drop of pink medication ? The March of Dimes was a campaign to get normal citizens to contribute money for research of polio. That sugar cube with the drop of pink medication on it was the treatment given to school children after Dr. Sabin found the cure.

So you see, there has been other anxious times and let's not forget HIV/AIDS. Eventually a cure was found for all of these, In time a cure will be found for this virus.

We live in an amazing time, the technology is wonderful. We know what is going on, we get the news instantly as it is happening no matter where we are. Computers and smart phones allow us not only to see and hear, but to interact with person as though we are standing face to face. Already Bishop Waggoner and Canon Catherine have met with all the clergy in this diocese through ZOOM meetings. Normally a small group of 4 to 6 clergy through the computer.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me.....

Reach out and touch someone, call and chat with a friend or acquaintance just to let

them know you are thinking about them. Pray for those who are on the frontline fighting this virus. Let's experience a new way to have church! Think about it, Palm Sunday and Easter we'll celebrate with a drive through the church's parking lot.

You can "attend" services on Sunday at Epiphany Episcopal Church, Las Vegas by Facebook or Trinity Cathedral, Reno on YouTube. The drive through parking lot time on Palm Sunday and Easter is 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. then I'll dash back to St. Matthew's for the drive through there at 1 to 2 p.m.

On Palm Sunday, you will get a packet for the Maundy Thursday Home Vigil service and on Easter's drive through you will receive the host for communion.

It is my joy to serve Holy Spirit, know that I am thinking about you and your families. I pray for you each day and hope that God is gracious to us and passes us over for the virus.

Wishing you God's Grace and asking you to be well.

Fr. Lionel

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"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am with them" Matthew 18:20