

Sisters and Brothers, Happy Advent!

11/29/2020

### Covenant Life

As we begin this special season of **Advent** let us decide to invest and make it a special time, an opportunity to grow closer to our Lord and be ready to welcome Him. Sharon Harmon collected Advent resources listed on our home page [www.GodsDelight.org](http://www.GodsDelight.org) just below the announcements. Please note that some of them start today.

I would also like to call your attention to two communications from our Holy Father that I was blessed this week to review: [NY Times article](#) and [Born of the Spirit Homily](#).

- Our next Community Gathering will be two weeks from today on Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in the MSMCS gym. The last Gathering can be heard [here](#) or the transcript [here](#) or see pictures on our Facebook page [here](#).
- Leona Lehman's children are sharing a memorial page with us [here](#) and a YouTube channel they built for her [here](#).
- If you can bring a meal to support the Powers family click [here](#)
- We are trying to close our 2021 Promise Drive, if you have not responded, please click [here](#) or mail in or contact Sue Wagner.
- Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

**Reflection** - Today as I reflected on the three homilies I heard (others have shared enjoying multiple online homilies 😊) the common theme was prioritizing time with God. This tied in well with what I have been praying a lot about recently. Lord, how can we turn this virus and all its impacts to good? One answer that keeps coming up is transformation. Not continuing down the same path. "Lord, transform me into who You want me to be. Take away the things I struggle with. Give me the courage to be the person You want me to be. Give me the endurance, love, faith, courage to witness for You." The foundation of this

transformation is our relationship with Him. How can we be transformed if we are not in a deepening relationship?

One of the homilies today quoted Saint Anselm from the Liturgy of the Hours *"Insignificant man, escape from your everyday business for a short while, hide for a moment from your restless thoughts. Break off from your cares and troubles and be less concerned about your tasks and labors. Make a little time for God and rest a while in him.*

*Enter into your mind's inner chamber. Shut out everything but God and whatever helps you to seek him; and when you have shut the door, look for him. Speak now to God and say with your whole heart: I seek your face; your face, Lord, I desire."*

One rock solid way that we can be transformed during this virus is to invest more time in prayer. Shutting down everything and saying with our whole heart, 'I seek Your face, reveal Yourself to me Lord'. The key to revelation is perseverance.

Quoting further from Saint Anselm *"Lord, how long will it be? How long, Lord, will you forget us? How long will you turn your face away from us? When will you look upon us and hear us? When will you enlighten our eyes and show us your face? When will you give yourself back to us?*

*Look upon us, Lord, hear us and enlighten us, show us your very self. Restore yourself to us that it may go well with us whose life is so evil without you. Take pity on our efforts and our striving toward you, for we have no strength apart from you."*

All too often this is the typical response in our prayer efforts. We are looking for something concrete, tangible. We seek answers on our terms, in our timeframe, that benefit us or our loved ones. God is simply asking us to shut down the swirling waters of our culture that surround us and simply focus on Him. Just simple quiet time seeking His face.

At Mass this morning I was trying to follow along in the Magnificat. Since the first reading had already started I looked up at the phrase that precedes the reading with a short overview so I would better understand the context. As I

read it, word for word, the words came from the reader on the altar. The timing was perfect, the reader was at that point in the reading and those exact words were chosen as the summary phrase. This 'coincidence' was small but it still brought a smile to my face. I felt the Lord was saying, I am here, always waiting for you, revealing Myself to you through all the circumstances of life. Seek My face, I will reveal Myself to you.

The way that God wants to transform us will be as unique as we are but let us each invest in seeking His face and asking Him to transform us so that we emerge from this virus reformed in His image and able to do what He is calling us to (individually and as His people).

Let us pray together: "Heavenly Father, I repent of the attachments to this world that distract me. Here today, I recommit myself to You. It is my ardent desire to be transformed into Your image and empowered with Your Spirit so that I can accomplish the special work You are asking of me. I commit to persevere in seeking Your face and waiting patiently in Your presence. Give me Your gifts of faith and hope that I need to journey to You. Thank you. I love You."

God bless,  
David