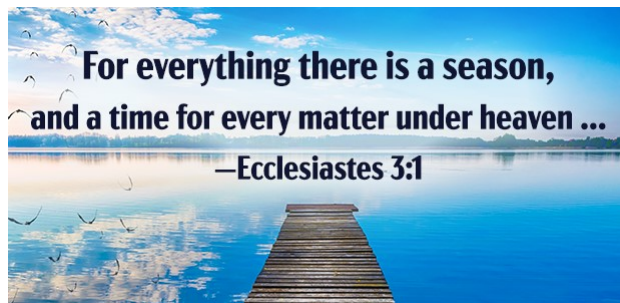


10.10.2020

IN GOD'S TIME

There is a Time for Everything

Priorities can change. A few months ago we never imagined, let alone heard about a CCP Wuhan Virus Worldwide Pandemic. About a year ago when we were asked to use paper straws or no straws at all, people lost their minds at the magnitude of the sacrifice.



Now we're being asked to stay home at the slightest sniffle, reject handshaking, over wash our hands, shutter our businesses, forgo paychecks, lay off cherished employees, avoid loved ones, dress like we are going on a bank robbing spree when shopping, Quarantine when returning from visiting other States in the Union, limit travel, and otherwise decimate the economy. And we're doing it.

Say what you want about the many horrific examples of humanity's inhumanity, when the rubber hits the road our tendency is to do the right thing. The long curve of our species' existence is, I believe, toward goodness. We choose Good. We choose God.

We make our choices. And our choices make us. We act with kindness and slowly, like a youngster learning to walk, we become kind. We tell the truth repeatedly, and become an honest person.

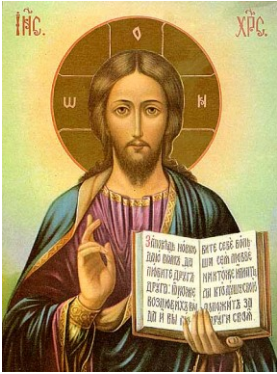
And we grow. Choice by choice. Grace by grace. It is not enough that we avoid killing, lying, adultery, envy and the rest. Instead, we make choices that are consistently life-affirming, respecting the God-given dignity of others, and yes, of ourselves. We grow.

God has created a plan for each one of us but the way we go about trusting His plan can dictate our overall happiness. When we pray, we open up the communication line between God and ourselves. It allows us to go to Him before seeking help anywhere else and it shows our submission to Him and His plan for us. The plans He has for us always exceeds our wildest expectations because it aligns with what we are meant to be doing, not what we expect we should be doing.

What happens to our lives when we make a shift in our attitude and admit that Jesus is our Savior and invite Him into our heart of hearts? Let us listen attentively to the wisdom found in Holy Scripture, our Catechism and in Modern Comment.

**"Commitment and Integrity go
hand in hand. Do what you say."**

St. Hilary Men's Group



Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 In God's Time

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to give birth, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.

A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to tear down, and a time to build.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.

A time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.

A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace.

What profit have workers from their toil?

I have seen the business that God has given to mortals to be busied about.

God has made everything appropriate to its time, but has put the timeless into their hearts so they cannot find out, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

*When the time is
right, I, the Lord,
will make it happen.*

Isaiah 60:22

Jerimiah 29:11-12 Hope and a Future

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

The Word of the Lord

Catechism

CCC 312 - God's Mastery of all, Providence and the scandal of Evil

In time we can discover that God in his almighty providence can bring a good from the consequences of an evil, even a moral evil, caused by his creatures: "It was not you", said Joseph to his brothers, "who sent me here, but God. . . You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive."

From the greatest moral evil ever committed - the rejection and murder of God's only Son, caused by the sins of all men - God, by his grace that "abounded all the more", brought the greatest of goods: the glorification of Christ and our redemption. But for all that, evil never becomes a good.



CCC 2743 – Our Time is that of the Risen Christ

It is always possible to pray: The time of the Christian is that of the risen Christ who is with us always, no matter what tempests may arise. Our time is in the hands of God:

It is possible to offer fervent prayer even while walking in public or strolling alone, or seated in your shop, . . . while buying or selling, . . . or even while cooking.

Modern Comment

IN GOD'S TIME - There is a Time for Everything

. . . a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. (Ecclesiastes 3:5)

What a challenging year we've had! The coronavirus has turned our lives upside down. What we used to take for granted—that schools and businesses would be open, that we could go wherever we want whenever we want to—we suddenly can't assume any more. Hugging or shaking hands has been replaced with a simple nod of the head from a safe distance. Perhaps a touching of elbows. It's been a time of social distancing from friends but drawing closer to the people with whom we are sheltering in place.

Isn't it remarkable how appropriate this reading from Ecclesiastes is for this particular moment in history? It describes the common ups and downs of life, but it takes on a special resonance this past year. This has been a time of fear and suffering for those sickened by the virus, a time of mourning when loved ones have died, and a time of gratitude for those who remain healthy.

Yet as Christians, we know that Jesus is still in charge of the situation. He has "made everything appropriate to its time" (Ecclesiastes 3:11). He is with us in this pandemic, just as he has been with us in all our other trials. And because he is with us, he continues to pour out his blessings, even amid the challenges. He gives us the grace to deal with the obstacles we face. He invites us to unite our sufferings to his on the cross. And he holds out the promise of new life, both now and forever.

Today, acknowledge what you have been through these last few months—the ups and downs, the moments of joy and the moments of sorrow. Allow Christ to enter into each of these areas. He won't judge you for feeling discouraged or frightened or alone. He understands the discomfort and distress of having your life disrupted in so many ways. Let him accompany you day by day through this "appointed time" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Jesus longs to heal you and unite himself to you. Know that even when embracing is difficult, you can always rest in His Holy embrace.

"Lord, thank you for being my stronghold during life's ups and downs."



REMINDER: Diocese Social Distancing, food distribution and mask regulations will be followed in Men's Group Meetings until further notice. Please use the hand sanitizers placed at Room entrances when coming in. If you have a fever or otherwise not feeling well, please stay at home.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What has been your biggest frustration during the CCP Wuhan Virus Shutdown? Please explain.

2. What has been your greatest Blessing during the Shutdown? What have you learned? What have you gained? Relate your Positive Experiences.



God's timing is always perfect!

Men's Group Calendar A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.



10/23/2020	Leadership Meeting	Meeting Room 1 & 2
11/14/2020	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
11/20/2020	Leadership Meeting	Meeting Room 1 & 2
12/12/2020	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
12/18/2020	Leadership Meeting	Meeting Room 1 & 2
1/9/2021	Men's Group	7 AM Mass



Prayer is a vital necessity

Proof from the contrary is no less convincing:
if we do not allow the Spirit to lead us, we fall back into the slavery of sin. How can the Holy Spirit be our life if our heart is far from him?

Nothing is equal to prayer; for what is impossible it makes possible, what is difficult, easy. . . .
For it is impossible, utterly impossible, for the man who prays eagerly and invokes God ceaselessly ever to sin.

Those who pray are certainly saved; those who do not pray are certainly damned.


CCC 2744

ACTION PLAN

This month I will do my best to listen for God's will in my life by:

- Creating a daily prayer practice.
- Seeking God in prayer and being quiet in His presence.
- Paying more attention to God's Blessings in my life.
- Asking Jesus for help in becoming a better servant.
- Allowing God to create the man He wants us to be in His time.

Broken
things can become
blessed things
if you let God
do the mending.



**GOD'S TIMING
IS FOREVER
ACCURATE.
BELIEVE IT.
TRUST IT.
ALLOW IT.**

**WISDOM IS KNOWING THE
RIGHT PATH TO TAKE.
INTEGRITY IS TAKING IT.**



Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself. Forgive me – the sinner that I am, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son. Come dwell in my heart.

Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave.

Thank you for your tender mercies. I ask you to bless my family, friends and those who I meet in my comings and goings.

Where there is joy, give them continued joy. Where there is pain or sorrow, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release in them a renewed confidence. Fill their every need with your Holy Grace.

You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior. Amen

