



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Holy Cross Council 5423
Burnaby, British Columbia
In service to one, in service to all



Dear Brother Knights,

We enter a new beginning of a new year, and we move towards our goals of returning to our great works. We have had some challenges that we met with head on vigour and came out with some great solutions and results. We successfully ran the coats for kid's program making sure all went out to those in need. This program was successful mainly in part because we acted as a true community. If it were not for the dedication of our fellow knights, Brother Arthur who keep the coats safe and stored, the Holy Cross Parish and School administration, the Paone Family, Rosanna from Salon Glam, Mrs. Kimmie from Brentwood Park Elementary, all who worked extremely hard to find deserving homes for these coats we might not have had the success we had. I find myself reflecting on this program often as a reminder that no matter what is happening in our individual lives through our own challenges there are many people who genuinely and honestly believe in charity and community as the way of life.

Although this year we did not have the opportunity to join in a feast, we put our funds forward to providing a feast to those who needed it most making sure that those families had a blessed Christmas.

Thank you each and everyone for your continued support and belief in making this world not just a place to live but a home to be proud of.

"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him." "As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good." "for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." "But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

(James 1:12, 2 Thessalonians 3:13, Galatians 6:9, James 1:2-4, Hebrews 10:23, Philippians 1:6, Matthew 24:13)

Fraternally Yours,

Chris Largan G.K.

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Where is God? Asking Hard Questions During a Time of Crisis

Written by: Carmine Morelli,

My dear brothers, a happy, safe, and healthy New Year to all of you and your families. We have been struggling with this pandemic now for almost a year and things seem to be getting worse rather than better. I am sure that all of you have been affected by this strange and horrible disease one way or another. Perhaps some of our family, friends, and relatives, contracted the virus and were hospitalized, or had to suffer through it at home. Thousands of people lost their jobs including our loved ones. Thanks be to God that our government stepped up and offered financial relief to overcome that challenge.

We live in a world that stumbles from one crisis to another. Every day, millions upon millions of people are faced with spiritual, physical, financial, and family problems that threaten to overwhelm them.

As I write this article, more than one million people across the world have died due to COVID-19 and an additional thirty million have been diagnosed with the disease. We cannot even begin to measure the toll that all this suffering and loss of life will take on our loved ones, our economy, and institutions both large and small.

COVID-19 is not the first pandemic. The AIDS epidemic killed 36 million people. The flu pandemic of 1968 killed 1 million people. The Asian flu (1956–1958) killed 2 million people. And the flu pandemic of 1918 killed between 20 million and 50 million people. In fact, over the past 150 years, more than 60 million people have died because of some public health crisis. And let us not forget the Black Death, which killed 50 million people in Europe alone in the mid-1300s.

Faced with this pandemic, as well as other similar tragedies in the past, we wonder why. How could this happen? We might even ask, “Where is God? Why does he seem to be hiding from us at a time when we need him most? Why won’t he come and rescue us?”

From our limited human perspective, it can seem that God really has abandoned us. But it simply is not true. God does not cause evil. He would never send a crippling virus to us any more than any of us would want to infect our children with a deadly illness. True, he has allowed evil acts and horrible disasters to come to us, but he never causes them. He never wills them into existence.

God Is Always with Us and the truth is that God can bring good out of any evil. It is vital that we stand firm on this truth and put our hope in it. God loves his creation. He loves every human being. He loves his Church. And he loves you.

How do we know God is with us? Because he always sends his servants to us in times of crisis. He does not send plague and war and pestilence upon us; he sends saints. Think of how he raised up Saints Damien de Veuster and Marianne Cope to minister to the lepers at Molokai. There’s also St. Teresa of Calcutta, who cared for the poorest of the poor. St. José Brochero nursed the sick through a cholera epidemic in Argentina in 1867. During an outbreak of the plague in 1576, St. Charles Borromeo, the archbishop of Milan, went from house to house in his city ministering to the sick and dying.

Where was God during these tragedies? He was right there with his suffering people. He was present in great saints like Mother Teresa and Damien and Charles Borromeo. And he was present in every act of kindness, compassion, and prayer performed by any of his people.



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Even today, God still raises up saints to bring his love and grace when catastrophes like the coronavirus strike. We may not know their names or their stories, but God knows. We may not know how much they are sacrificing in order to minister to people, but God knows. And he blesses them immensely for it. During all the suffering this pandemic has caused, our heavenly Father is still telling us, "I am here. I am with you." He is telling us, "If you want to find me, look to the love your family and friends are offering you. Look to all the people who are bringing food, medicine, prayer, and compassion to the victims of this illness." And he is telling us, "Turn to me and let me work through you for the sake of the people around you."

In a recent article in the BC Catholic Archbishop Michael Miller, commented on the challenges and restrictions that this pandemic has caused parishes and Catholics around the Diocese of Vancouver. However, he also asked what were some of the unexpected blessings that this pandemic brought you? My wife Makiko and I thought about this and here are some of those unexpected blessings that we experienced:

- *We went out for daily walks together and prayed the rosary every day.*
- *We went to church everyday together and we ushered and controlled the registration of people's names for contact tracing.*
- *We had three meals together almost every day.*
- *We organized a sandwich delivery to the Door is Open Charity who feed the homeless in downtown Vancouver. Over 15 families from our parish gave of their time, talent, and resources to make sandwiches every week. We picked them up from their homes and brought them to the Sisters of Charity every Sunday for 5 months.*
- *We started a Zoom Bible Study for our parishioners Called Mass Readings explained. We host it every Thursday night at 7:30 pm. If any of you would like to join us email me and I will send you the link cmorelli@telus.net.*
- *We rented a house in Kelowna for one week and invited our children and grandchildren to be with us. It was an awesome trip.*

So, my friends be strong in your faith, trust in God and He will be with you especially during these difficult times. May we, the people of the Church, commit ourselves to loving as Jesus loves us. ¹

^{1 1} This article was based on a recent article in The Word Among us January/February issue 2021



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February 11: 7:00 pm 3rd Degree Virtual General Meeting

Anytime: Holy Cross Parish Burnaby Eucharistic Adoration and Chaplet of Divine Mercy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MT7PPqo-VKQ>

Anytime: Holy Cross Parish Burnaby [Holy Cross - YouTube](#) (Do not Forget to Subscribe)

Please visit our website <https://www.knightsofcolumbus5423-holycrossparish.com/> to keep yourself up to date on the events in upcoming months.

Good of the Order

Please pray for all those who are suffering from sickness and those who may find themselves alone more often especially our older Knights & parishioners who may not be as active as they once were. We continue to pray that we will all join each other again soon.

Please let the Grand Knight know of anyone who is sick or in distress or needs help and assistance.

January and the Knights

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge: January

Those who come great distances to find something often draw our attention to the blessings we enjoy.

And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.

They prostrated themselves and did him homage. (Gospel for Jan. 5, Mt 2:9-12)

Whenever I meet a refugee, immigrant or traveler, I am reminded of things I take for granted. Those who come great distances to find something often draw our attention to the blessings we enjoy. Most of us are fortunate to have Jesus nearby, truly present in the tabernacle of our local church, but we take his close presence for granted all too easily. The Wise Men embarked on a difficult journey to encounter Jesus, but a five-minute drive can seem too far for us. May our daily familiarity with Jesus never result in indifference. May we instead, like the Wise Men, enter the Lord's house to do him homage.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to take to heart the example of the Wise Men and go out of your way occasionally to visit the Blessed Sacrament in a local church. Second, I challenge you to participate in the Faith in Action March for Life or Novena for Life programs or to personally support a local pro-life initiative.

Questions for Reflection:

What daily opportunities do you have to encounter Christ? Because gratitude counters our tendency to take things for granted, how can you demonstrate daily gratitude in your life? Why is it important to visit Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, and have you benefited from this experience?