

REFLECTION FROM . . .



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TRANSFORMATION

One of my favorite subjects throughout my time in school has always been history. I have always loved learning about events that have occurred in recorded human history since it helps us to have a bigger perspective especially when we reflect on current events. As we all share in a major historical event together one of the overarching themes of historical events that I have been thinking about is the theme of resiliency. When we look back at our human history, we see that traumatic events are not new as we learn from experiences including world wars, major natural disasters, and of course previous pandemics. When we study those events, it can be easy to focus on the loss and suffering which draws us away from the other side of those events that include rebuilding, renewal, and transformation. World War II is one of the most studied time periods and rightly so since humanity has never experienced that level of death and destruction from a war before. As I write this reflection the global death toll from the Coronavirus is at 232,000 and continues to climb every minute which is a huge loss of human life. At the same time when we compare it to the 85 million people who died from World War II or the estimated 100 million who died from the 1918 Flu Pandemic, we realize that this current pandemic is not the end of the world. So, there is no need to panic buy things like food, water, or toilet paper.

The world will bounce back from this challenge and there are many lessons that we can carry forward with us so that this pandemic is not just about loss but also about growth. One thing that is very clear from this experience is how interconnected and interdependent we are as a global community. The news is quick to highlight our divisions and disagreements, but I hope that this pandemic has shown us in a powerful way how much we rely on one another. There is still a lot of us versus them mentality which slows down how much progress we can make as a global community together. Fostering cooperation and communion between countries across the world is actually one of the main marks of the Church. The word 'Catholic' means universal and since the beginning at Pentecost one of the main missions of the Universal Church is to build communion between people from all over the world. When we are reunited together in the halls of Heaven, we will no longer care whether someone is from Indiana or India. We are all part of God's family and the world would be so much better if we all treated one another as beloved family members. Another painful lesson that this pandemic can teach is to remind us of how fragile our life on Earth is. With the amazing growth in medicine, science, and technology we can be fooled into thinking that we are on the road towards mastering our world by eliminating aging, disease, and even death. Our reliance on science can easily be another form of the tower of Babel where we start to believe we no longer need God. No matter how technologically advanced our society becomes, we will never escape the reality of the Cross and death. The fact that the world needs a Savior was true not just 2,000 years ago nor will that change a million years in the future. May God continue to purify and transform us into the Saints we are called to be.