

REFLECTION FROM . . .



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PATIENCE

Last week Governor Holcomb announced the different phases as the roadmap to reopening Indiana with a soft goal of having most things back to normal by July 4th. I know that I am not the only one that wishes that the reopening process was not as drawn out, but all of the recommendations have the same goal of protecting each other especially our most vulnerable. So, this time is a great opportunity to grow in the virtue of patience which reminds me of one of the letters of Saint Peter: “But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out” (2 Peter 3: 8-10). One of the temptations that the Devil uses on all of us is the temptation to be angry with God because God does not answer our prayers when we want. The virtue of patience is difficult to grow in especially in our modern culture that desires everything to be instant including instant food, entertainment, and communication. So, promoting growth in patience is one of the ways that we are called to be countercultural.

Many people question the value of patience without realizing that there are many things in life that should not be rushed because of all of the steps needed to be successful. Most people do not know that it takes 6-8 years for a young man to complete the necessary formation in seminary for the priesthood. I know seminarians often wish the process did not take so long but there are not many people who would advocate that priestly formation should take only 1 year. With any large endeavor every step towards the end goal is important and rushing would mean taking out or neglecting important steps. When we think about important goals, the most important one that we all share is the goal to be saints. We know that God is all powerful and can transform us in an instant but that is not the best way according to God’s wisdom. As we grow in holiness it takes growth in prayer, sacrifice, and service. As we celebrate the month of May as the month of Mary, we are reminded that God has chosen the human race as the most important instruments for the perfection of creation. The more we grow in holiness, the more we cooperate with God’s plan and guidance of creation towards the perfection of all things. So, this week we can pray in a specific way asking God to help us to grow in the virtue of patience especially as we grow in our journey towards becoming saints and being coworkers with God as he continues to lead all of creation towards perfection.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Nguyen", with a long, sweeping underline.