

A Post from Father Niblick
March 26, 2020

Back in the first week of Lent whenever that was, I showed the movie Pope Francis: A Man of His Word and it was very well received. It is not a film of pious propaganda nor is it a sentimental portrait of a jolly old man but a serious considered look at a significant person on the world stage in the first quarter of the 21st century co-written, directed and produced by Wim Wenders who is another serious person born the same year as me, an artist looking for beauty, truth, and goodness.

The film is not about being Catholic it is about being human and Mr. Wenders believes that Pope Francis is a good teacher on that account. I will include a link to the trailer at the end of this post, just that will give you a sense of the quality of the film.

Francis makes the point, very gently, I might add, that change of any kind unsettles and troubles us because we do not know what is on the other side of the change or we cannot see through the door into the next room and our fear tends to keep us where we are and we do not grow.

But now we all have to deal with all kinds of changes that are beyond our control and we can barely see the door, much less what is in the next room and it is tough isn't it?

The feelings of insecurity, anger, sadness, rage, helplessness, and fear and, even, terror, and both vulnerability and invulnerability, that I feel, as I suspect you do as well, are pathways into our inner lives, into our spiritual lives, try and take note of your feelings, decide what name you would give to what you are feeling, and sit with the feelings for brief periods of time without trying to distract yourself.

For many of us, especially men, I suggest, this is the first time in our lives that we cannot control what is going on. We want to flee, understandably, but we cannot because there is nowhere to flee. Wealthy Mexican people went skiing in Colorado and brought the virus back to Mexico.

I hope that at the end of this long, long day lived in the presence of this plague that my feelings of helplessness and fear and all of the other ones that I do not want and do not like having, at the end of this day, I will be more gentle with myself, my grip on my world relaxed, and that I can believe a tiny, tiny bit more confidently that I am more than what I think I am. I am more than a body, more than a mind, more than a career, more than my occupation, and for sure, more than my net worth.

I am very appreciative and thankful for the many, many kind words I am receiving, the food dropped at my condo, the gifts, and offers to shop for me. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

The link to the movie trailer: <https://youtu.be/LomO47PTPZY>