

March 29, 2020

Today is Sunday and we would have had lots of people at Mass and many of us would have had breakfast together and some of us would have been at the fish fry and Friday night, but we had none of that.

I watched Cardinal Cupich and Mass at 9:30 on Channel 7. I really like him, and I hope I get to meet him, he is so sensible and thoughtful, and he does not call attention to himself and the Catholic institution as the be all end all of our experience.

He expects people to think for themselves, his homilies come from within his own experience not from some catalogue of tired old ideas that actually mean nothing to you, have nothing to do with your life, if you think about them.

I am glad that I decided not to stream Mass, without all of you it would be a very sterile mechanical exercise not a celebration of the Sunday Eucharist. It wouldn't be our Sunday Mass if you could see me in an empty church with no music or kids or suckers or apples or.....

Sometimes people assume that I don't think prayer or praying is important and I do not want to give that impression' but I do think that prayer is not just telling God what needs to be done or what ought to be done.

I think private or, even, small group prayer as contrasted with Mass or a Sacrament is more about being still and listening rather than speaking, either mentally or out loud, and I say that because one of the most challenging teachings of Jesus in the Gospels is that, and I paraphrase, God knows what you need before asking, so don't rattle on like those who do not believe.

I believe that, so I try to find what God is doing in my life by being still and quiet just a few minutes each day. I like to think about what or who has surprised me on any given day and how that may be aligned with my life with God in Christ.

I pray when I look at certain images on television or online or in print and just look not organize or correct, just look and feel what the image calls forth and I try and stay with that image for a bit, linger with it.

These days we have lots and lots of images to look at, in the hours of our helplessness, there are countless people helping in spite of it all.

I have no doubts that my lingering presence with their image touches them, lifts them, and that they know my love or grief or compassion with them.

God doesn't need me to alert him to the suffering of others, nor does God need me to alert him to joy because God is there before us just as in the empty tomb stories of Easter.

Years ago, it would be this week when we would cover the statues in church with purple cloth to remain covered until the Gloria of the Easter Vigil the night before Easter.

The reason we did that was to teach and remind that we cannot always see our loved ones alive or dead but wherever we are when we love them, they are with us and we with them.