

March 31, 2020

The first week of Lent I met with some of our 7<sup>th</sup> grade CFP kids and I asked them what they were reading. I do not remember the titles of the books but a very animated and informed conversation about utopias and dystopias followed along with, you might remember the asparagus soup I wrote about a few weeks back.

I don't think I ever knew the term dystopia until a few years back when Cormac McCarthy's book, **The Road**, came out and the movie that followed.

Just those few short weeks ago "dystopia" was an academic issue in works of fiction. It is our daily bread now.

The vulnerability I feel now is unsettling most of the time and terrifying some of the time and I cannot help but fret about what is coming, and I know that most of you feel the same way.

I try to ration my television news watching, I never was a news addict and I only ever watched network and local news outlets never the 24/7 for profit stuff but in some ways, they are all alike.

ABC News with David Muir kept playing over and over the same clips of anguished medical personnel in New York, that isn't news in my opinion, it is manipulation, a kind of emotional porn trying to addict us to the pain of others to keep their ratings up.

We don't need to see some things to be informed and that kind of stuff causes more fear and, maybe, panic in the viewer and it does nothing for those suffering.

What I look forward to and hope I get to do is sitting with those young people some afternoon or evening this summer and listen to them talk about the differences between utopias and dystopias.

They are the ones who will have a big role in putting Humpty Dumpty back together again and I'll bet they will be up to those challenges given the wise and excellent teachers that they had in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

O, when we have that very much anticipated conversation next summer, we will have asparagus soup and tons of whatever else they want to eat.