

3/21/2020

Dear Beloved of Christ on the Mountain Parishioners,

Today I pray for one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I pray for courage for all of you and myself as I prepare to hunker down for the long hall of social distancing. I also pray for the courage to face the needs of others as they arise. I am going down to the soup kitchen to feed the homeless today. I usually go a couple times a year but now it looks like I will be going more often. I also pray for wisdom, understanding, knowledge and more gifts from the Holy Spirit as I encounter the homeless. I hope and pray to be a tool from which the compassion and love of Christ can flow. I usually do not wear my collar but today and going forward it may help to wear it as a symbol and sign of Christ. We just went through the sexual abuse scandal and people wanted social distance from their priest and now the corona virus crisis hits and we want to be close to the priest and feel the love and care of Christ.

As I prepare food for the homeless, I will be praying and asking intercession for all of you. Here are some thoughts from Henri Nouwen:

"Let us have the courage to live fully even when it is risky, vibrantly even when it leads to pain and spontaneously even when it leads to mistakes." (pg. 139 "A Cry for Mercy")

This attitude should characterize not only the way we live but also the way we serve. Service is never safe. It is always risky. We never know how we will be received and what the outcomes will be. Service is also never perfect. We serve in spite of our weaknesses and mistakes. Service can also lead to pain. It can lead to an empty feeling because Christ has helped us to pour out his love from the well of our soul. It can result in lack of appreciation and it usually involves carrying burdens of others along with our own burdens. The more we ponder this the more we consider backing away but as we feel this urge we need to lean forward. Service is an act of courage and boldness. It is in some ways a foolhardy thing to do but let us be fools for Christ.

In his Spirit and Strength,

Fr David