
DURING THIS CRISIS WE CAN RETURN TO THE ESSENTIALS

1. WE REMEMBER THAT WE ARE NOT 'SUPERHEROS'

In this time of suffering and struggling with illness, we must remember once again that the Father has already sent a Savior — and we are not it.

2. LET'S USE THE SHOCK TO REFLECT ON OUR LIVES

When one is involved in an active church, with projects and fiestas and plans for more activities, etc., the unexpected illness comes as an obligatory "stop" that halts many things.

3. DON'T PLAY WITH A TRIUMPHALIST THEOLOGY

The church has a fundamental role in responding wisely to this situation. The biggest problem is in a weak theology that teaches that prudence is against faith, a triumphalist theology teaches that we are immune to the virus by faith.

4. LET'S PREPARE TO ACCOMPANY OTHERS IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Doctors are fighting against this virus as if they were in a "war environment". In our church we have had to "let go" of many without being able to say one last goodbye. How can one live without a funeral ritual, a ceremony to be able to participate in?

5. LET'S GO BACK TO THE ESSENTIALS: THE COMMUNITY

Activities that bring people together in physical places have been suspended, and we have no way of *being church*. But Christian leadership must take advantage of this crisis to rethink the church from a community perspective. Christ is the center, worship is not, nor are our Sunday gatherings. First, in Galatians 6:10, we read: "So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, but especially to those who belong to the family of the faith." It is time to maintain pastoral care in all aspects: the care of children, young people, married couples, as well as adoration in the Blessed Sacrament.

6. LET US BE, NOW MORE THAN EVER, LIVING AND ACTIVE CHURCHES

We are in a world that is in breakdown, in need of us to assume our role as **light and salt**. We are weak and small to face the enormous challenge of this epidemic. The suspension of masses has greatly reduced the offertory. However, social help has multiplied - Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before all, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." The food distribution has been incredible.

It is true that we are confined, but the Holy Spirit is not confined, and as Christians we continue to participate in the life of the society that surrounds us in the midst of the crisis. It is time to show that "the church is still alive and well."