

Love in the Time of Corona

June 16 2020 - Tuesday of the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

MT 5:43-48 – A Final Reflection

by Fr. Wayne Cavalier, OP

Today concludes our series of reflections on Love in the Time of Corona. It is therefore appropriate that in today's Gospel, Jesus tells his followers that they are held to a higher standard of love. We love not only those whom it is easy to love. It is not enough. We are called to love beyond our likes and our dislikes, our tribal mentality and our favoritisms, in season and out of season. The name for this series of reflections came out of the conviction that nothing—not even the new coronavirus—can separate us from the love of God. That is precisely why Jesus says what he does today about love: because we are called to love as God loves. God has no favorites, no prejudgments, no time when God gives up or just doesn't have time or energy for loving. God does the hard work of loving all the time. The followers of Jesus are called to be the continuing incarnation of God's love—all the time, even in the time of corona. That calls forth creativity from us in these trying times. We hope that we have nurtured and nourished your creativity for love in these times.

Thanks to those of you who've already shared your thoughts on these reflections. If you haven't done so, we would love to hear from you. This crisis will continue for some time. We are all even now negotiating new ways of co-existing with COVID-19, and it is not easy. If we can continue to be of assistance, please send us your ideas. In the meantime, we continue to work together for the development of lay leadership in the Church and in society. Now, we must help lay pastoral leaders learn new skills and new ways of connecting in the time of corona and in a time of reckoning with systemic racism, as well. All of it is for one purpose: to continue to be conduits of God's relentless love in a world sorely in need of it—in season and out of season. Thank you for being a part of this great work.