

April 22, 2020

My dear People of Saint William of York,

This morning, during my Holy Hour, I came across the *Prayer of Pope Clement XI* in my prayer book and pondered it again. I remembered that I'd shared it with you in one of my earliest letters. I'll give it you now again:

*I want whatever you want, I want because you want, I want as you want, I want as long as you want.*

After reading the prayer again, it struck me as I was praying that I should not be beseeching our Lord to end this pandemic soon, not that it would be wrong for you to pray for it to end, but that *I*, in particular, should not beseech Him to end it; that He *expected me* to trust Him with that decision. I saw Pope Clement XI's prayer in that context:

*I want whatever you want, I want because you want,  
I want as you want, I want as long as you want.*

Remember, the sense that things are out of control is an illusion of ours. The Lord of History knows what He is about. He has no illusions. The Covid-19 pandemic will end when He wants it to end, not a moment before, not a moment after, in the same way that Our Lord died on the Cross at an absolutely appointed time, not a moment before, nor a moment after, and when that final moment came, *and only then*, did our Lord declare, *It is finished* (John 19:30). So it will be with the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Lord of History has a plan and has had it from all eternity. There are still many lessons to be learned and many lives to be changed. There are relationships yet to be forged and there are some to be mended. There are relationships to be strengthened, and some to be ended. There are souls to be won, souls to be lost, and saints to be made. *To every thing there is a time and a season, and a time to every purpose under Heaven* (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Over the years, I've composed little private prayers of my own to express my heart to God. As you can imagine, I'm often asked to pray for special intentions. On top of that, I have cares and hopes of my own to lay at His feet, and so many years ago I put together these few words to express myself on those occasions and in light of what our Lord has taught me about His Hidden Counsels and Divine Providence. As the end of my Morning Prayer intercessions draws near, I conclude in this way:

*And for all the intentions I've been asked to pray for, as well as my own.  
Do with them as You will,  
For all Your ways are holy, and all your ways are true.*

It's very simple. He is God and I am not. His ways are always holy and always true. For those of you old enough, like me, you will certainly remember: *Father Knows Best*.

This morning I heard from our Facilities Manager, Tom Mauk; he is finally feeling better. He is loved and missed by us all. To be sure, all of our very dear, wonderful staff continue to amaze me by their love and good cheer. Besides that, there is no other priest I'd rather be living with in these times than Father Lino. Our sanctuary is open, our bell keeps tolling and calling us to prayer, confessions are being heard faithfully, and we are living through this pandemic *together* with heartwarming faith, hope and love. To God be praise and Glory forever!

Now I send you my blessing, through the air, from my heart, remaining always

Your grateful pastor,

Father DeMartino