

Day 185 – Monday, September 21 – Back to Normal

It has been 12 days since my accident. I am feeling well and trying to get back to normal. But what is normal? For me personally and professionally, “Normal” is getting back to celebrating daily Mass, and tending to the day to day needs of the Parish. [Today](#) I will be going to bless a house. Normal in this time of COVID 19 is anything but normal. I had a wonderful ZOOM mtg with my family last night, and one of my sisters-in-law is a doctor in Los Angeles. She noted that the Corona has mutated, so there are a couple of strains out there. Meaning once you have had it once, you develop antibodies against that strain, but there is no guarantee that you can’t get another strain. Like the flu, which has thousands of different strains, there has to be a vaccine for every strain. So it looks like “Corona Normal” may be with us a long time.

Normal in terms of social distancing will be something interesting. I remember in the seminary joking: “When you do something once, it is a custom - if you do it twice, it becomes a tradition.” “Normal” things like shaking someone’s hand, giving them a hug, are no longer becoming “Normal.” What happens after a year or two of people not doing these “normal things.” Will we pick them up again? Young children are learning that, what the rest of the population seems “Abnormal,” are the norm. Will we revert to where we were, or will the “New Normal” prevail.

This is why we need things to hang onto that never change. Christ is the same yesterday, [today](#), and [tomorrow](#) (Heb 13:8). We need to hang onto him. Having an attitude of generosity—how that generosity may change from time to time, but the attitude of being generous and kind to the people around us, is something we can never lose.

If this car accident has taught me anything, it is that people, deep down, on the basic level of their humanity are generous and kind. When you strip off all the masks that we have created for ourselves, the image that is left is that of Jesus Christ...and why not, we are created in his image and likeness. Perhaps we need to work so the “New Normal” is one of Christ manifesting himself in every aspect of our lives.

In the light of eternity, we’re here for a very short time, really. We’re here for one thing, ultimately: to learn how to love, because God is love. - James Finley

Sincerely,
Fr. Jim Kaptein