

Day 200 Tuesday, October 6 – How long will this go on

I remember back in March when everything was closed. I decided to write a musing every day to give people hope. It was cold and dark, people would be in isolation, and loneliness would become a big factor. At the time I remember thinking...”before this is over I would be typing “Day 100.” Well 100 days ago I typed “Day 100.” I must admit that when all this started, I did not think I would be typing “Day 200,” but now I think I may actually type of “Day 400” and perhaps “Day 500.” Although I am hoping and praying that by then, they will have a viable vaccine; as I think it will only be a vaccine that brings COVID to an end.

On one hand that is depressing news. Ask anyone, and these 200 days have been long. People have endured isolation, loneliness, they have not been able to grieve, get out and visit, and those who have been lucky enough to travel in the past, have had all their holidays curtailed. On the other hand there have been some true blessings: the emergency rooms at hospitals have been less busy. People have taken up and excelled in new hobbies, others have had the time to reflect on life and re-evaluated their priorities. Still others have taken the time to deepen their faith. Throughout these last 200 days we have all learned that “Life goes on.” One thing I love about humanity is that we not only survive, we thrive. I have no doubt that years from now, people will look back on COVID only in history books. When they do, they will see it as a time of cleansing—a time when not only individuals re-evaluate their priorities, but society on a whole will have re-evaluate their priorities. We simply cannot sustain the life style we have been accustomed to, and expect the world to be there for others. I love the sayings, “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our descendants.”

This is why we need to adhere to the very first command God gave to humanity, “Be stewards of the earth.” We are not masters who can do whatever we want. We are stewards, and just as when we borrow a neighbour's lawn mower, and know that we need to return it in the same ways we borrowed it, we need to borrow the earth from our grandchildren, and pass it back to them in the same shape (or even better) than we first receive it. In the next 200 days may we all come to understand this.

It is my firm hope, that as we remember this milestone, God will bless us, fill us with hope, and clarify what he would like us to learn in the next 200 days.

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