Above all trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We would like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient on the way to something unknown, something new; and yet it is made by passing through stages of instability. And that may take a very long time.

Only God can say what this new spirit forming within you will be. Give the Lord the benefit of believing that His hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Let’s not lose hope during these times

We have all been struck by the wonders of creation. It may be difficult when we observe a world that has been changed into a symbol of the wondrous creation that we are to marvel at. It may have been that we were with family and friends to celebrate a birth, a graduation, or an anniversary. Somewhere, sometime: plants, animals, natural elements, and the people we love give us an awareness that God is with us.

During the COVID–19 pandemic, we’re being struck with the upheavals of sickness, deaths, shortages, unwanted self–isolation, concerns, and disappointment. Instead of being blessed with an awareness of God, we might be asking, “Where is God now?”

I believe that during this time of cancelled church services and self-or mandated isolation, we’re not losing out but are given an opportunity to know that God is busy at work in us. Not in our hustle and bustle attempts to keep up life as routine and normal as possible but instead in any and all new and unexpected circumstances that come our way.

When the prophet Elijah was fleeing from Queen Jezebel who sought to kill him, he takes refuge on Mt. Horeb. The same mountain where Moses received the Ten Commandments from God following peaks of thunder, lightning and heavy clouds (Ex 19:16). On the same mountain as Moses, it was not in strong natural events that Elijah became aware of God, but rather in a tiny whispering sound (1 Kings 19:9–12). As with Moses and Elijah, our challenge during the COVID–19 pandemic is not to know God is with us, but to know God is working to be known in new and wonderful ways.

May God bless us all and give us peace.

Fr. Bob Kelly, OP

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