



ST. JOSEPH SPIRITUAL MINISTRIES
A Congregation Ministry
of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston

Staying Connected in this Uncertain Time

As we carry on here at St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries in remote locations, we are taking some contemplative time to reflect on a favorite Scripture passage that has held meaning for us in past difficulties and what it may be saying or inviting us to look at in new ways during this global crisis.

Hope Is Not Canceled by Carlotta Gilarde, CSJ

***“There are many parts but one body,
the parts have concern for one another ...
if one part suffers all the parts suffer with it.” 1 Corinthians 12***

“Nothing can separate us from the love of God.” Romans 8: 38-39

I can't see. I don't know about you but my calendar has no use for me these days. I can't see tomorrow. I can't plan ahead. I can't see what summer will look like. I'm used to taking in an entire month but can't do that now. So many appointments and projects have been cancelled.

One day I found one of our sisters from our motherhouse, Franny Wool, placing a sign on our front lawn that says “Hope is Not Cancelled.” I began to see that yes, there are so many things that have not been cancelled – like our interconnectedness

Immediately, I thought of one of my favorite scripture readings from 1 Corinthians chapter 12. “There are many parts but one body, ... the parts have concern for one another... if one part suffers all the parts suffer with it.”

This interconnectedness is a theological conviction. This conviction helps me to discover what is it that I really care about? Christianity affirms we are related. I see that the world is so interconnected, all of us one family, children of one God.

I can see that what happens in China matters here and vice versa. I can really see it now that despite our differences and distances, we are living in a not-that-large home, sharing common spaces, shopping side by side for the same products. I see that when one of us gets sick we are all susceptible. I also thought my own body may be a death for someone. I really see now that any person's death diminishes us because we are so involved in each other.

Henri Nouwen said, “Community is much more than belonging to something. It's about doing something together that makes belonging matter.”

These days, we may well have thought of our ancestors who lived through a previous epidemic. They experienced helplessness and a severe lack of information. I believe they had faith like that of Anne Frank “I simply can't build my hopes on a world of confusion, misery, and death. I think ... peace and tranquility will return again.” This brings me to the blessings of virtual communication.

Sometimes technology can be overwhelming, especially when I see us Zooming in to teach and participating in those unending board meetings! However, I also see the joy when my sister-in-law Maddy Zooms in to give her grandchildren a cooking lesson or someone is able to celebrate a special birthday or even a wedding. All of this takes away loneliness.

May we remember we are all a part of the continent and to continue to be involved in humankind and to find meaning in the madness. “Nothing can separate us from the love of God.” God overcomes isolation. We are bound into one Body of Christ.

Sending a hug of love to all,

Carlotta Gilarde, CSJ



Photo by Franny Wool, CSJ, used with permission.