



## *Reflection from Deacon Ross 5/17/2020*

A riff on Hamlet...

"To open or not to open – that is the question.

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the masks and gloves of outrageous fortune –  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles... and be at odds with established science...."

Sorry for the misuse of Shakespeare....

I, for one, feel like I am sailing in a "sea of troubles" at this time of Covid19. Not much seems right. How do we make good decisions affecting ourselves, our loved ones and others? There are so many circumstances and difficult choices to make. Some of the options seem equally unhappy. Do we remain shut-in at home, perhaps fearful of going out among others? Do we go out – observing social distancing and wearing a face mask? Or are we tired of it all and willing to take our chances and just go where we want, the way we want? Throughout, is loss of income making personal and family life very difficult? And who are we blaming? That thought alone can upset us and take away our peace. It feels like a no-win situation for almost everybody. The worst part of it may be the interminable waiting: waiting for guidance from authorities; waiting for deadlines to pass; waiting for relief from sanctions; waiting for government assistance; waiting for adequate testing and for a vaccine; waiting for this horror to eventually be over.

The difficulties of life today may make it hard for us to join wholeheartedly with the psalmist this Sunday: "Let all the earth cry out to God with joy."

This Psalm 66 is a response to the first reading, Acts 8:5-8, 14-17. Underlying messages of that reading are: 1. the entire community is called to evangelize; and 2. no one can predict who will accept God's word nor through whom the Spirit of God will choose to work. (Cf Sr. Mary McGlone, CSJ, Celebration 5/21/17). Now, for those messages of the Spirit we can all "cry out to God with joy" In these challenging times of pandemic and economic struggle, "we," the entire community, are called to evangelize: called to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ, risen and with us, to bear on the struggles of our families, neighbors, co-workers and the world. Also, it is not for you or me to determine who will accept this message of hope. It is available to all. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth." (John 14: 15-16)

"Let all the earth cry out to God with joy." Even amid Covid19.

*Blessings, Deacon Ross*

Acts 8: 5-17

PS 66

I Pt 3: 15-18

Jn 14: 15-21