



“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’” (John 21.15)

As I look out the back-garden window, everything is coming to life. Winter is but a memory and the daffodils and tulips are in bloom and the lilac bush is budding. And as I gaze out the front window of my house, I see that the enormous maple is bursting with green buds. Ah, new life; there’s nothing like it! Spring has arrived and summer is just around the corner.

The last time I wrote a theological reflection was before the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (November 2019). Oh boy, has life changed! We’re now experiencing our third lockdown. Remote learning has become the norm. Of course, hybrid learning is the future and we’re in it right now. Not only education but also church, family gatherings and work. In-person and remote, both options will always have to be available.

A response to ‘Feed my lambs.’ is already being practiced. Every student of ours can participate in class and school as fully as possible and as safely as his or her family chooses. We teach our in-person students and our remote learners as best as we can. With the leadership of our school Admin and the support of all school staff, we keep all the students as safe as possible. We are feeding the Good Shepherd’s lambs, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We try to love you Lord, as much as you asked St. Peter to love you. We wear our masks, we keep socially distant, we follow all safety protocols, and we get vaccinated as soon as we are able. We pray for each other. We call our loved ones and friends. We reach out to those who live in long-term care homes. We support all the healthcare workers: doctors, nurses and hospital staff and all essential workers.



‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ We sacrifice a lot during these present times. We must forego church attendance, family and social gatherings and out of country travel plans. We are patient as we wait in line for essential items like groceries. Our athletically minded students can’t play school sports because all the leagues are cancelled. As challenging as all these sacrifices are, we accept them because we care for the common good. We love our family, friends and neighbours.

And as we respond lovingly to our Saviour’s question, ‘Do you love me?’, we rest assured that we are blessed. ‘This too shall pass.’ The pandemic is temporary. We will get through this. Family time is increasing. The natural environment is healing. We are resting more. Overall, it is quieter. Blessings, for sure. Personally, I still have meaningful employment and I’m receiving the usual wage. My commute to school has decreased from 40 to zero kms. Even though I can’t receive the Eucharist, I pray with the daily TV Mass, recite the Rosary with Bishop Barron and listen to Fr. Mike Schmitz read the Bible on *Ascension Presents Bible in a Year* podcast. So many blessings. Thank you, Lord, yes, I love you.

May is the month of Mary. And it begins with the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. Pope Francis has proclaimed a Year of St. Joseph from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. So, we have two powerful intercessors in Heaven. Let us pray with them this month and ask for their Son’s protection during the pandemic. And that we will continue to feed his lambs out of love for our Resurrected Christ.

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