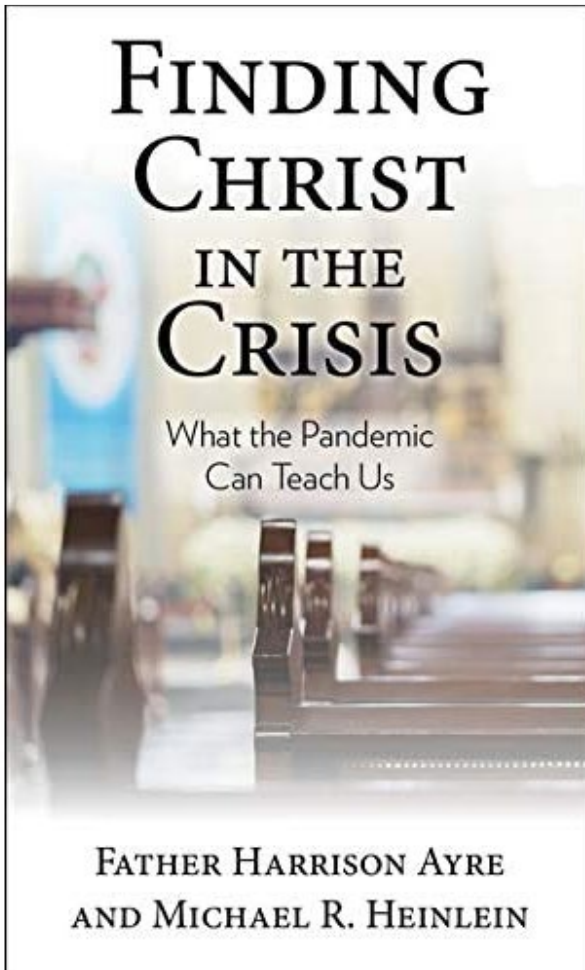


Spirituality During the Pandemic



Finding Christ In The Crisis

What the Pandemic Can Teach Us
Fr. Harrison Ayre and Michael Heinlein
OSV

Amid the Pandemic

“The Church is always called to read the “signs of the time” in light of our faith.”

Throughout this pandemic, we ask...

- ▶ Is God speaking right now?
- ▶ How do we hear and see God in this moment?
- ▶ How do we listen for his voice?

Parish Closures

“Right now, a lot of us feel abandoned not only by the Church, but even by God. We lack the spiritual interpretation of this moment and are unable to discern God’s presence at this time.”

Rediscovering Our Catholic Identity

“While we may at times be restricted in our access to the Eucharist, and even to pastoral leadership, the effects of this pandemic are by no means a defeat. Instead, as men and women of faith, we should find in this time an opportunity to rediscover the heart of our Catholic identity as baptized people.”

Discerning God's Work

“ONE OF THE LENSES THROUGH
WHICH CATHOLICS DISCERN GOD'S
WORK IN THE WORLD IS THAT OF
SCRIPTURE.”

Learning from Israel

“Reflection on the trials, tribulations, and sufferings of Israel in the Old Testament can be a stalwart guide for seeing God’s hand active in the Church, the New Israel.”

“The reality is that, even when we are separated from the sacraments – even the Eucharist – we are never alone, and we are never abandoned. This is because we have been baptized in Christ.”

Some Theological Lessons

- ▶ “...despite the challenges, this time also has been one of opportunity– one in which God calls us more fully to appreciate the gifts he gives us, particularly related to the sacraments and ecclesial life.”
- ▶ “Through a deeper understanding of our baptism, we can make our homes into domestic churches and bring Christ to the world around us, so that our lives become acts of worship as we take on the call to holiness with greater resolve.”
- ▶ “Times of absence from the Eucharist, such as during a pandemic, then, can help us to focus on how to act on the grace given in the past through the Eucharist.”
- ▶ “Properly “doing church” means coming to understand that parish life and parish activities are not ends in themselves. Rather, our activities and programs must be geared to facilitate the Church’s mission of salvation.”

The Pattern of the Cross

- ▶ “The difficulties of our present moment assuredly can be united to Christ’s cross and saving mission.”
- ▶ By embracing the cross, by participating in Christ’s saving mission, we are living the cross as a sign of hope: Hope is where God’s grace works in us.”
- ▶ “We embrace the cross for the good of others when we sacrifice our comforts for the sake of the most vulnerable...”

Some Spiritual Lessons

- ▶ “Leisure trains us to be receptive to God and to see him more clearly, it trains us for one of the most important activities of leisure—namely prayer.”
- ▶ “One fruit that can arise in this time of pandemic is a greater understanding of and reliance on the centrality of personal prayer.”
- ▶ “Our relationship with God – like any relationship – can only grow insofar as we give God regular, consistent time to speak to him and listen to him.”



Lessons from St. Damien of Molokai



Spiritual Resources

Reference

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