

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISHES OF



ASSUMPTION
9040 95 AVENUE NW
EDMONTON AB T6C 1Z3

RESURRECTION
10555 50A STREET NW
EDMONTON, AB T6A 2C8

24 April 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Patience! Who ever has enough of it! When we are children we are told to stop and count to ten. As we get older, counting to ten just isn't long enough, it seems.

Patience is the virtue that helps us bear up under wrongs and evils; it helps us face hardships that are difficult to bear. The greatest of evils to each of us, of course, is the threat of death itself, and that is why Our Lord is offered to us as a model of patient endurance.

When we face hardships and wrongs, we naturally respond first with sorrow, and *patience* helps us through the sorrow we feel when we are wronged. We also feel anger, and *meekness* helps us deal with our anger, just as *charity* helps us confront the hatred that we may feel to those who inflict wrongs upon us. Finally, *justice* helps us to avoid returning evil for evil, by which we ourselves are tempted to inflict an unjust injury.

"In your patience you shall possess your souls," Jesus said, explaining how we are to meet opposition and aggression and hardship (Luke 21:19).

St. Ignatius of Loyola speaks of a related attitude, what he calls "holy resignation". This does not mean we become a "door mat" to everyone and let them "walk all over us". We have our inherent dignity that demands respect. But holy resignation is an attitude that knows how to face obstacles in a healthy way. Certainly, we have responsibilities in this life, and in those areas where we are responsible (at work, for instance, or as a parent), it would be wrong to abdicate our responsibilities in the name of "holy resignation". But there are many areas of life where we are not responsible for certain activities or given outcomes, and where we need not impose our will on others; situations, in other words, where it is prudent to yield our desire to have our own way. It is the trick of discerning what is important and what is not in the concrete situation in which we live our life. And it is the "trick" of always keeping important things important, and lesser things, well, lesser. It is the ability to face all situations with a proper equanimity. Patience is easier when we remind ourselves that there is something more important to deal with and we need to save our energy for that battle, rather than lose our patience in the little daily skirmishes that form part of the texture of our lives.

Patience, as a virtue, is allied with that other virtue, fortitude, which helps us confront the greatest dangers we may face; patience helps us endure even lesser evils.

Our lives have been upended by the current pandemic; things we once took for granted we can no longer take for granted. How are we to face our "new normal"? Perhaps by taking stock again of what is truly important and to redirect our energy to that purpose: to seek out once again the light in the forest, instead of being lost in the shadows of the countless trees.

Fr. Philip Creurer

Pastor