

MARCH 15, 2020
Wednesday of the 3rd Week of Lent
Matthew 5: 17-19

FOLLOW THE LAW

Around the world and in every country, they have their own way of handling the crisis of Covid-19, responding and managing how to contain the spread of the virus. They issued a lot of restrictions: closing the borders, self-quarantine, stay at home, social distancing, and the most effective as this time frequent handwashing. In all of these, one thing that hit me was that it is only in nations where the citizens are more 'obedient' that measures have proven successful. Citizens who follow directives, precautionary measures, rules and laws have less contamination or spread of the virus.

This is what our readings talk about. Moses told the people: "Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you."¹ Following the law even during the time of Moses is effective. Following the law of the land is valuable and useful. Following the law of God today and everyday will always be successful and efficient. "When we follow God's commands, we are not only like little children who are obeying their Father's Word. The commandments and other forms of God's divine revelation are also a source of wisdom for us, offering insight into the mysteries of human life. Whether we understand God's ways completely or not, when we follow God's commands, we become more like Him who gave them to us, because what God is describing in giving us His commandments is a description of Himself. He is always faithful to those with whom He has made a covenant. He is always merciful to those who call upon His Holy Name."²

¹ Deuteronomy 4: 1 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

² www.catholicsermons.com

My dear brothers and sisters, God handed down through generations, laws that we are bound to follow. The question is are we living our lives according to His prescribed laws? Or we let the numerous viruses of modern life affect, infect and contaminate our spirituality that lead us to become immune whenever we break the laws of God and cause damage and hurt not only to our families and loved ones, but to Jesus Himself.

So, in this time of health crisis, let us follow the law of the land, exercise understanding and patient why lining up in the groceries or pharmacies and compassion to those vulnerable. Don't be selfish, hoard supplies or sell these things in Ebay or Amazon with high costs. Think of others not only ourselves. When we follow the law of the land, when we are kind and respectful to others, we become the face of Christ to others. Let us live the laws of God, let us love God and our neighbors.