



**BACAR Pandemic Forum #1---April 1, 2020 Developed by:
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Facilitators' Report of Breakout session of three questions

1. Do you have particular concerns about the time we are facing? What are concerns you have faced over the past few weeks and looking forward?

- U.S. Governors have not held consistent views and regulations regarding safe behavior in public thereby increasing risk factors
- Governors and elected officials not setting stay-in-place orders – this will increase the spread of the virus and the number who will die unnecessarily.
- Younger people are not taking the necessary precautions to protect themselves and others
- families rediscovering themselves
- missing being with friends/particularly teenagers
- in walking pass people I've never seen before
- talking with families struggling and coping
- slowing me down
- gift of time
- blessing and a trial
- able to finish things I have put off for time
- worried about enough food and supplies for household
- Older people are isolated even more and for much longer periods.
- We can't visit family/friends who are home or hospital bound. Our ministries of presence can't be fulfilled except through phone calls, emails, zooms, but no direct personal engagement. Many ill/disabled people are very alone at this time.
- The poor, homeless, and immigrant families are suffering in so many ways that many of us don't experience or even think about in daily life. Those people losing jobs can't buy food, pay rent or other due bills. Some governors, like Governor Newsom and Ohio Governor DeWine are trying to offer direct assistance to these communities.

- Health-care providers continue in the face of Administrative non-response; providers expose themselves and can't be with their families in the way they need to. How do we deal with this situation, besides prayer?
- The situation is taking a serious toll on mental and emotional health on families;
- Some families don't have basic necessities, much less access to the technology that can keep them connected.
- The food chain: will it hold up; it is dependent on workers being able to come across the border;
- The necessity to support small businesses.
- A lot of praying now, especially food for all now.
- This pandemic will sure bring lasting change to our world.
- Fear about finances, trying to find hope.
- On our knees, surrender to God.
- Fear for relatives who are part of the health care system.
- Fear for my daughters, whom I can't see. It's also her birthday next week.
- How to process the grief?

Unemployed

Those without health insurance

Prisoners

Immigrants

Healthcare workers

Some feel very compromised

I'm in too much grief now, my regular practices are being disrupted.

Reaching out to other, especially those in isolation.

I want to reach out more.

Unable to visit family, friends, neighbors and the people we normally serve.

People in the streets/shelters, immigrants, undocumented workers, the hungry, those who have lost jobs

Feel heaviness when away from other people.

2a. What is Eucharist/Communion/Spiritual Nourishment for you now?

watching masses online;

participating in weekly/monthly prayer groups via zoom

reading Papal encyclicals, past and present;

reading Lenten reflections;

reading reflections of Richard Rohr;

sitting in nature and being grateful

learning about ways people are reaching out to one another in kindness;

- Holy Family Parish liturgy offers meaningful community prayer.

- Increased communication with family/friends/neighbors provides the human bonds of love and care which are the presence of Jesus among us.

- This is a time of grace; we are doing the best that we can

- It is a spiritual time, a time for slowing down.
- A scheduled parish retreat was presented on line, and 1,500 people attended
- People are interested and participate in on-line offerings: Father Jim Martin, SJ
- Does scripture sharing on line; people have live-streamed Mass.
- There is time for reading books, using You tubes for classes like Yoga, exercises; there are different sites for Mass, healing music, meditation music, meditations
- People have used humor to cope; circulated humorous cartoons, notes, humorous music about the pandemic.
- Education has shown great creativity in continuing their work through technology.
- Zoom, telephone, texting, internet have made it easy to keep connected worldwide.
- In some neighborhoods, people have had a 5:00 o'clock wave – where they go out on their porches with wine or food, and waved at each other.
- Families have been together through Zoom – one family decided that each member would make a special dish for dinner, and they joined each other through Zoom for the meal.
- Keeping busy with groups via Zoom – different ways of being community with increased technology.
- I exercise personal restraint in not throwing things at the TV when Trump is speaking.

This is a form of reconciliation. Come to Jesus with who to forgive. Could we forgive?

- Despite hate/fear, increasingly sharing our stories is a beautiful thing and increase our bondedness.
- BVMs sharing Sundays – interactive
- Omega Group Zoom liturgy – at least you can see each other and share ideas.
- Have reserved Eucharist at home. This has been wonderful

Praying the psalms

More contemplative

More reading

Energized by community

Felt a heaviness when going out

What do I now want to let go of?

On-line mass.

On-line Sacred heart retreat

Meditation

Happy hour zoom

Website for game night

Technology

Pray together/Stay together

Weekly prayer group at Villa Maria Del Mar in Santa Cruz with other SNJMs

2b. What touched you in the ‘Letter to God’ from Ilia Delio?

being together and sharing a meal transcends fear;
panic caused by Coronavirus may be a sign of God’s presence;
when we move toward each other, God emerges as the center of our lives;
«Every aspect of nature has a part in this symphony- even the Coronavirus»
Coronavirus is not God’s punishment of us: we punish ourselves by losing trust
in God.

- The words of Ilia Delio offered her challenge to us to *“recognize that Christianity can help us realize that death and resurrection are part of the evolutionary path toward wholeness. The chaos of our time is, in a strange way, a time of hope; something new is being born within.”*
- Ilia Delio’s article has been very helpful. Creativity of this moment and helps not to get depressed. She invites us to look at things differently – nurturing our values and looking at what we are doing to our planet. Where is God? S/He is here and will help. God is love/life. Take care of self.
- Tradition needs to be incorporated – cannot lose it.

3. What resources have you found beneficial?

The Holy Family Parish in South Pasadena is providing meaningful online masses with excellent preaching and community prayer.

The technology available today has provided ways to contact individuals as well as to maintain contact with established groups of associates/sisters. Even new interfaith groups are forming through virtual gatherings.

Zoom, Telephone

*James Martin, SJ – all platforms (FB, Twitter, ZOOM, Instagram, America Today, etc.)

*Neighbors

*News

*Fr. Brendan (Holy Spirit, San Jose) – you tube retreat: six session -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhJTKlynMO0&list=PLWJ2Ve9szX0NXE4TLQyMFKrGvPxtKxAtz&index=3>

Gathering together through zoom/telephone

You tube – **Seasonal Wonderland**

On-line mass.

On-line Sacred Heart Retreat

Grief.com

Meditation

Retreatreflectrenew.org - on-line class starting Monday, theme “courage for the call”

hermitfish.com (Benedictine monk, Michael Fish)

Happy hour zoom

Website for game night

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Bishop John Wester's Mass from New Mexico available online.

Prayer groups – via Zoom – interactive – a place to nourish and be nourished.

Time with interactive liturgies.

Catching up on reading Pope Francis' encyclicals.

Visiting museums all over the world virtually.