

# The Associates World

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## Reaching Out and Deepening Our Faith During the Pandemic

Submitted by Mike Kallock, C.S.P.

As our April Newsletter goes online, the coronavirus pandemic obviously preoccupies most of our lives.

As director of the Paulist Associates, I have been asked to write about this crisis. I initially resisted this because the crisis is rapidly spreading and changing. What one may say now may well be outdated in a few days. Also, I humbly submit there are so many much more authoritative persons with much bigger microphones than I, who need to be listened to and heeded.

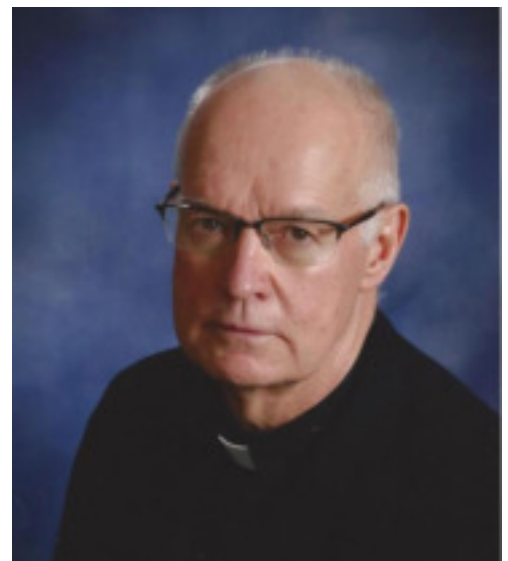
So, to the question: What would I like to tell our Associates during this crisis.

First, follow the CDC guidelines of keeping our physical distance. But at the same time, now more than ever, reach out to others in whatever way you can by phone, text, ZOOM, Skype, and so on. Many of you are more creative than I am in ways of connecting to others from a physical distance.

It initially upset me when the prescription to protect ourselves, slow down the spread of the virus, and flatten the curve so as not to exhaust our medical community, was spoken of as “self-isolating.” I wish from the very start they would have said that the prescription is physical distancing **and** connecting to others by other means.

Isolating is unhealthy at any time. It is the last thing we should be doing now. What I have been doing, e.g. is making a point every day calling at least three different people. Never the same ones again for several days. I say this as someone who does not do much phone calling.

Second, a crisis is always a challenge and opportunity to deepen and grow in our faith. This crisis can easily shake a fragile faith. That is what is behind Jesus telling his disciples in the garden of Gethsemane to, “*Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test.*” The test being that which can



*Fr. Mike Kallock, C.S.P.*

destroy their faith in Jesus. Same for Matthew and Luke's "...do not subject us to the final test," in their versions of the Our Father. The final test as the Crisis, the Cross that breaks us.

A Crisis is a *now* moment. So now is the time to strengthen and deepen our faith. We now have more time and less distractions to really pray, meditate, read spiritually, and be still in the presence of God.

Just before this crisis kicked-in I started reading **The Recovery of Love** by Jeffrey D. Imbach published in 1992. Imbach writes of our time as time of a loss of an intimate, passionate love for God and for one another. He feels the answer is found in the wisdom of four Christian Mystics of the fourteenth century. Why is this relevant? Because they lived in the time of the Black Plague which killed over 50 million people, over 60% of Europe.

I just want to single out Julian of Norwich. Her famous lines are often quoted today:

*"...all will be well, and every kind of thing will be well."*

During the Black Plague, Julian of Norwich reached deep within her faith and found and experienced, that God like our clothing "*wraps and enfolds us for love, embraces us and shelters us, surrounds us for love.*"

During this crisis may you reach out more to others and may this crisis compel you to deepen your faith so that you experience the love of God and the love of others in a more loving, intimate way, than ever before.

## ***The Desert of Social Distancing***

*By Jacqueline Toepfer, Chicago Associate*

"On a morning in mid-March, I participated in Mass at Old St. Mary's in Chicago by live-streaming via the internet—a necessity after the Archdiocese suspended all public Masses due to the coronavirus. As usual, it was a beautiful service, with beautiful music, and a wonderful homily (which we have come to expect from the Paulist Fathers). But following the service, I found myself reflecting on the strangeness of this time. A time when I cannot freely engage with my fellow Catholics or Paulists. A time when I cannot participate in the Eucharist. I wondered if this experience was like that of the early Catholic church in Rome.



*Jacqueline Toepfer*

During the time when these early Catholics were being persecuted, these first Catholics must have known that to spread the good news, to invite another to the Eucharist, also meant that one was inviting another into a dangerous situation. Having been a persecutor, St. Paul knew what he was calling others to when he evangelized the Good News. St. Paul's second letter to Timothy tells us that he knew of the peril of such times and that he would face his own persecution.

The uncertainty of our current times, when even a handshake could put oneself or someone else in peril, calls into question our own mortality. "Am I ready"? Have I "competed well" and "kept the faith" as St. Paul did?

As each of us try to go about doing what we must to care for our families, to shepherd our Catholic family, or to serve the most vulnerable in our communities, we do so knowing that we could be putting ourselves or someone we love in danger. The social distancing to which we are now subject brings into focus what is most important in our lives. Each human interaction raises uncertainty about the spread of the virus. It forces us to consider who we most want to protect and who, by our actions, we may be putting in harm's way. Suddenly, family near and far seem so much more important, especially our elders who are among the most vulnerable. Things that once seemed important, now seem silly. Is that gym workout really that important? Do I really need a manicure? Is the recognition obtained from a job that keeps me away from those I love truly worth it? Are we focusing on the things that God is calling us to do?



How can we protect the people we love while also distancing ourselves from the very people who make life worth living? We are called to action but must sit in wait. This realization can lead to a sense of helplessness. It is here that I find the words of St. Paul in his letter to Timothy encouraging. His words provide hope that if we remain faithful to God's word, we will have the strength to bear all. I find that I am drawn to prayer—calling upon St. Joseph the Protector to protect my home, my family, our Holy Father Pope Francis and the Universal Church.

This Lenten season, already a time for prayer, fasting and good works, seems heightened by this period of social distancing as we “go into the desert” of isolation. I find myself looking forward to Easter joy, when, God willing, we will be able to celebrate the Eucharist as a Catholic community with the people we love. Even if that does not happen on April 12, it will have special meaning this year. Once again, I am reminded of the joy the early Christians must have felt when they could steal away to celebrate the Eucharist, and I thank God for the gift of the Eucharist and our Catholic family.

## ***Lent in the Time of Coronavirus***

*By Denis Hurley, a Boston Paulist Associate*

I never really got to know my dad in my adult years.

He had a stroke when I was a senior in high school and died eight years later, three months after my mother, who had also been ill for years, died.

That was 52 years ago when I was 23.

I actually knew my mom better in those years because my dad was paralyzed on one side and without much speech, so our interactions then were mostly about the brand-new N.Y. Mets, who essentially gave him a life, and what contributions I could make to his care.

But this Lent, I've been re-forging a relationship with him based on my Lenten journey having pointed me to a book that was on his chairside table through all the years that I knew him as healthy: Chesterton's semi-biography of St. Thomas Aquinas.

How, you may wonder, does this relate to Lent 2020 and, even more so, to coronavirus?

It probably began in late 2001, after 9/11, when I started a practice I've continued since of reading portions of and commentaries on the Qu'ran every night during the month of Ramadan.

That led to an interest in Islamic thinking and how it was similar to and different from the other two Abrahamic religions, Judaism and Christianity.

*That*, in turn, led to stumbling on a book by a Notre Dame academician about the similarities in thinking and method among three great medieval scholars: Ibn Sina (an Islamic scholar sometime called the Father of Modern Medicine,) Maimonides (the 12<sup>th</sup> century Jewish explainer of the Torah,) and Thomas Aquinas (the 13<sup>th</sup> century Doctor of the Church.)

I knew something about Aquinas because I went to Fordham in the early '60s and you couldn't slip through those hallowed Jesuit halls without becoming at least passingly familiar with the Dominican giant. The fact that his mentor, Albertus Magnus, was my birthday saint, didn't hurt, either.

And, after reading a bit about Maimonides over the years, I had thought about the coincidence of his being a near contemporary of Aquinas.

But Ibn Sina was a mystery and the knowledge necessary to understand the links among these three scholars was not in my portfolio. So, I started reading commentaries on Maimonides and then some of his brilliant works, and I also learned about the incredible amount of Islamic scholarship in the middle of the Middle Ages.

Most of them were, in one way or another examining ways – within their own faith contexts – of melding reason with revelation. It captured my imagination.

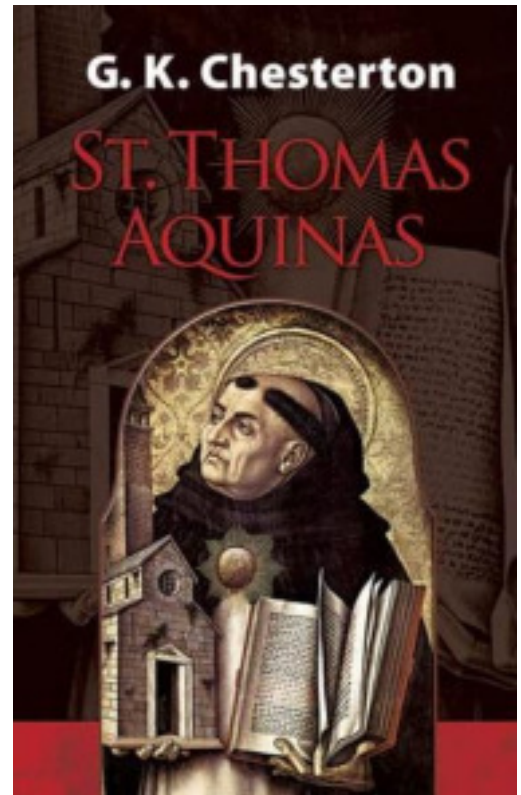
Then came Lent and the coronavirus.

At the arrival of this year's Lent, I decided to systematize my reading and thinking as a formal practice for the season.

Coronavirus and the need to social distance gave that decision a new dimension.

After a fairly long time of helping her elderly parents in Texas, my wife, who had been teaching online from there, returned to Massachusetts just after the Second Sunday in Lent -- in time for us to spend my spring break at our "retirement" house in North Adams, MA.

It was then that the virus, which had been sort of vaguely in the distance, became a serious factor in American life, forcing us to change plans about her return to Texas, forcing Boston University to change my class to an online session, which could be done from anywhere, and forcing us – both in the age group where it's reported that, if we were in Italy, they'd let us die – to make decisions about how we were going to do this social (and physical) distancing thing.



That involved buying a lot of canned food and other necessities and deciding not to go out unless it was absolutely necessary. I know that I'm eventually going to hate that – at this writing I haven't left the house in over a week -- but it's probably wise. Thanks to Facebook, I still have contact with friends. Thanks to HULU, I still have contact with the world. Thanks to Kindle, I have enough books available to me to last until well after I'm dead – even of old age.

And that last “thanks to” has made this year my “coronavirus Lent.”

The routine is this:

Morning: Get on the treadmill and read about Aquinas for a half-hour. Switch to the rowing machine and put in earbuds to listen to Taize chant for a half hour.

(I learned long ago that I am not suited for meditation unless I've begun by exhausting myself with exercise.)

Bedtime: Read from or about Maimonides or ibn Sina or Al Ghazali, or some other Islamic scholar on my Kindle before the NY Times crossword sends me to sleep.

A bit into this regimen, I discovered a rewarding side benefit. Shortly after I started my routine, I remembered my father's table and the Chesterton book.

So, I downloaded it onto my Kindle and have been making it my treadmill reading pretty much every day since.

It's given me a connection I haven't had with my dad for over 50 years, a chance to read some things that he apparently read and contemplated over and over again – things that helped make him who he was, maybe some of the things he was trying to tell me when the stroke wouldn't allow him to say what he was thinking.

And, in what I'm marking up as Lenten growth, it's given me a chance to examine a whole bunch of questions I wish I'd been able to ask him back then, and to learn and consider some important things about the origins of why I am who I am.

## ***Renewing Promises and Updating Lists of Associates***

We are always happy to hear about new Associates taking promises as well as current Paulists renewing theirs. Please post notices and photos on Facebook and let us know so we can add the information in this newsletter.

When these renewals take place, it would be helpful to all if the local coordinator would send an updated list of Associates to Kathleen Lossau so she can keep our contact list current. Please email contact information for those taking first promises and those renewing promises as well as a list of those who have opted not to renewing promises to Kathleen Lossau <klossau@austin.rr.com>.

## ***Paulist Associate News: A Visit to Our Tucson Associates***

*By Mike Kallock, CSP*

I had a wonderful visit with our Tucson Associates at St. Cyril of Alexandria the weekend of March 6-8.

The Paulists took over St. Cyril of Alexandria in 1974 during the peak of our expansion when we had over 260 priests. The Tucson Paulist Associates made their first commitment on the Conversion of

St. Paul in 2003. There were 14 members at that time and 4 more would be added on the Conversion of St. Paul the following year.

We (Paulists) would leave St. Cyril's in 2006. With the support of Paulists Bill Dougherty and Ed Pietrucha, who would both remain in Tucson in retirement for a while, our Tucson Associates would continue to grow. As you can see by the picture there were 12 associates at the March 7 meeting. There are 26 on their rolls. I am sure there would have been a lot more at the meeting had we not been in the dawning of the seriousness of the coronavirus.

Our Tucson Associates usually meet the first Saturday of the month at St. Cyril's Parish Center named after Paulist Bill Dougherty. They meet at 10 AM followed by an elaborate potluck lunch. St. Cyril's, by the way, is now staffed by the Carmelites.

Carol Wagner Williams, who is on our national board, facilitated a very spiritual and thoughtful discussion on one of the sessions they have been doing of Dr. Tim Gray's video/study guide

**Philippians: Life in Christ.**

Beginning in April they will follow our Paulist Patrons Monthly Programs. In fact, as you can see in this issue of the Newsletter, they did the program on Teresa of Avila. They have also committed to doing a future program on our patron Isaac Jogues.

After the discussion on St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, they swamped me with news about the many Paulist that served St. Cyril's. We then closed meeting with the renewal of their commitment for one more year, before going on to the delicious potluck.

The last time I had visited with our Tucson Associates was in 2005. I recognized seven of them who were with the original group. I was thrilled to see how well our Tucson Associates are doing and that they continue to grow in membership.

Yes, the Tucson Paulist Associates continue to live and spread the vision and mission of Servant of God Isaac Hecker and the Paulist Fathers.



Tucson Paulist Associates (March 7, 2020):

Front Row, Left to Right: Gil Puente, Michele Way, Reg Parks, Bea Anne Berg, Mary Shelor  
Back Row, Left to Right: Chris Christopher, Fr. Mike Kallock, Mary Elizabeth Potts, Larry Schnebly, Judy Kempf, Carol Wagner Williams, Tom Jefferson, Steve LeGendre

## Looking for Newsletter Input

Dear Associates,

This month's issue of *Associates World* contains two pieces submitted by Associates.

We are always anxious to have more.

If you'd like to make a submission, you should send it to Denis Hurley at [dhpc18@gmail.com](mailto:dhpc18@gmail.com).

These are some simple style suggestions that we ask you follow in making submission:

- Articles should in the range of about 600 words.
- They should be typed in (preferably Calibri) some *sans serif* font in 12 point type.
- Pictures should be accompanied by captions describing where those who are pictured are, what they're doing, and who they are (full names) in left-to-right order.
- You should add a byline with the form of your named you'd prefer to be identified by.
- You should cite all sources with phrases such as, "according to," "in Name's words," or, best of all, "Name said." That last one should be in past tense and should not be substituted for with more abstract words such as "feels" or "thinks." ("Said she feels" or the like is OK, but the writer can only know what the source has said.)
- Please also say something about yourself, as in, " Boston Associate Denis Hurley is a former newspaper, magazine and broadcast editor. He is currently a Lecturer at the Boston University College of Communication."

We love book reviews and descriptions of special events various Associates may have sponsored. And, especially as we approach particular seasons, we'd like to know about any personal reflections you may have. (Some Associates have, for instance, shared thoughts about books they may read or practices they may use during Lent.) And, since many will be following the suggested programs we post each month, it would be interesting to hear some thoughts that have emerged from those discussions in individual groups.

Don't worry if you're not sure about a topic. If you're really concerned, you can send a suggestion and we'll get in touch with you about it.

And don't worry about your writing. What you write has to be yours. We can do any editing of specifics that's necessary.

Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Editors.

## Our Monthly Programs for Our 15 Paulist Patrons

*Submitted by Fr. Mike Kallock, C.S.P.*

I have been very pleased by the response and quality of the monthly programs for our fifteen Paulist Patrons. Associate groups have really stepped up. Thank You!

Below with this April Newsletter is the schedule so far:

- four patrons that we have already covered
- three with the upcoming month they will appear in the Newsletter
- three that are taken with the month still to be scheduled
- five of our patrons that are still need to be taken and scheduled

I trust the chart/schedule is understandable. To get the Paulist Patron and month you would like to have your program appear in the Newsletter, email me at [kallockcsp@paulist.org](mailto:kallockcsp@paulist.org) ASAP.

### SCHEDULE OF OUR MONTHLY PROPOSED PROGRAMS FOR OUR 15 PAULIST PATRONS

<b>Jan</b>	<b>Conversion of St Paul</b> – Joe Scott, CSP	<b>TBA</b>	<b>John XXIII</b> – West Michigan
<b>Feb</b>	<b>John of the Cross</b> - Mike Kallock, CSP	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Isaac Jogues</b> - Tucson
<b>Mar</b>	<b>Francis de Sales</b> - Mike Martin, CSP	<b>TBA</b>	<b>The Blessed Immaculate Virgin Mary</b> - ???
<b>Apr</b>	<b>Teresa of Avila</b> - Tucson	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Thomas Aquinas</b> - ???
<b>May</b>	<b>Joseph, husband of Mary</b> - Chicago	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Patrick</b> - ???
<b>Jul</b>	<b>Mary Magdalene</b> - Boston	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Alphonsus Liguori</b> - ???
<b>Oct</b>	<b>John Henry Newman</b> - Columbus	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Elizabeth Seton</b> - ???
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Philip Neri</b> - Toronto		

## Proposed Program for April: TERESA OF AVILA

Submitted by Tucson Paulist Associates: Bea Anne Berg, Elizabeth Burnham, Mary Shelor, and Carol Wagner Williams

### Opening Prayer:

Let nothing disturb you.  
 All things are passing.  
 God alone never changes.  
 Patience gains all things.  
 If you have God you will want for nothing.  
 God alone suffices.  
 (from *The Bookmark of Teresa of Avila*)

### Read in advance of meeting:

Saint Teresa of Avila, who's Feast Day is October 19, was born on March 28, 1515 in Crown of Castille (now Spain). Her mother was keen to raise her daughter as a pious Christian. This led to a fascination of the lives of the saints. Her father was a wool merchant and one of the wealthiest men in Avila. During her pre-teen years her mother died, leaving her grief-stricken and prompting a deeper devotion to the Virgin Mary as her spiritual mother. She was sent to the Augustinian nuns' school at Avila. After completing her education, felt a calling to the monastic life and entered the Carmelite Convent of the Incarnation.



She struggled with her own prayer life. Her spiritual director guided her to back to prayer and instructed her to write her autobiography, The Life of Teresa of Jesus. The Protestant reformation sweeping over Europe and the Spanish Inquisition were creating a deep ecclesiastical controversy which led to her role as a great monastic reformer. In this role she took on her order through stricter discipline, living a simple life and monastic prayer. This created the Descalce branch of the Carmelite order with 16 convents and many men's cloisters. Her example encouraged other orders to make similar changes to their ways of life.

She is one of the first and only four women Doctors of the Church. She was an active reformer and improved the Catholic way of life. And, she was a change agent for women. In the 1500's women in religious life had no status and it took great courage to approach Rome.

Saint Pope John Paul II said to a group of pilgrims from Avila,

"It is necessary for the rich legacy left by Teresa of Jesus to be deeply reconsidered so that it can effect a renewal of the inner life of your nation thereby influence the renewal of life in the entire church in all aspects. The giant figure of the Great Teresa should act as a strong encouragement in the direction not only on a local or national scale but also a universal scale."

As one of the first and perhaps greatest writers and teachers of contemplation, her writings leave an impression for all time. In addition to her autobiography, her writings include: The Interior Castle and The Way of Perfection.

**Discussion Questions to Share in Your Group:**

1. As Paulist Associates, how do we practice trust and patience?
2. St Teresa encouraged her sisters who were sad when they had to leave prayer to work in the kitchen, "God walks among the pots & pans, we can find God in all things." How do we as Paulist Associates find God in all people?
3. Teresa uplifted human virtues everyone can cultivate, especially humility, detachment and love of neighbor. Far from being the removed mystic, Teresa outlined the path to holiness open to all. "It's not necessary to go to heaven" to find God, she wrote, for God resides in the deepest center of each person. How as Paulist Associates can we cultivate, the human virtues of humility, detachment and love of neighbor in ourselves? In each person we come in contact with?

**News/Announcements/Prayers for Others:**

**Closing Prayer:**

**St Teresa's Prayer**

Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has no body now but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

**Contacts**

**PAULIST ASSOCIATES WEB SITE**

<http://www.paulist.org/associates/paulist-associates>

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK** 

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/paulistassociates/>

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**PRAYER FOR THE INTERCESSION OF FATHER ISAAC T. HECKER, SERVANT OF GOD**

Heavenly Father, you called your servant Isaac Thomas Hecker to preach the Gospel to the people of North America and through his teaching, to know the peace and the power of your indwelling Spirit. He walked in the footsteps of Saint Paul the Apostle, and like Paul spoke your Word with a zeal for souls and a burning love for all who came to him in need.

Look upon us this day, with compassion and hope. Hear our prayer. We ask that through the intercession of Father Hecker your servant, you might grant us (state the request).

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. One God, forever and ever. Amen.

When you pray this prayer, and if you believe that you have received any favors through Hecker's intercession, please contact the Office of the Cause for Canonization of Servant of God, Isaac Hecker at [heckercause@paulist.org](mailto:heckercause@paulist.org). Visit the web site: <http://www.isaachecker.org/> to learn more about his life and the cause for his canonization.



**PAULIST ASSOCIATES PROMISE**

*I believe that I am drawn by the Holy Spirit to the spirituality and qualities of the Paulist Community.*

*I have discerned both by prayer and study that God calls me to become associated with the Paulists.*

*I promise that I will pray for the works of the Paulist Society, meet with others, who are also members of the Paulist Associates, for spiritual sharing and formation; and I seek to embody the apostolic qualities of the Paulists in my daily life.*

*Attentive to the Holy Spirit and faithful to the example of St. Paul and the charism of Father Isaac Hecker,*

*I commit myself for one year of membership in the Paulist Associates.*