

THE SHEPHERDS WALKING STICK

Today is the Solemnity of Christ the King! Viva Cristo Rey! This feast encourages us to hold on to the conviction that despite a lot that seems to be going wrong around us, God is still in control of everything. If we persevere in doing good, and not succumb to fatalism, cynicism and the temptation to despair, we too will reign with him. Our King exhorts us to produce goodness in all situations..... The Solemnity of Christ the King marks the end of the liturgical calendar. Next Sunday is the 1st Sunday of Advent and the beginning of another liturgical year. Let us remember that a new year is always different from the last one because it brings us closer to the definitive victory of goodness over evil, of love over hate..... Just like most people, I am silently complaining over the inconveniences that the restrictions have brought us. I don't agree with the decision to close the churches totally either. But, I humbly trust that the proper authorities know better. So, I cope just like everyone else. I am trying to keep myself virus-free and resistant by avoiding socializing with other people; I do daily exercise; I spend more time reading; I eat well and get good night sleep; I chew my food more slowly and do my prayers more reverently. Nonetheless, I thank everyone for your affection and concern especially those who called or left messages and those who left food at my door or at the church kitchen..... Be assured also that everyone of you, my beloved parishioners, is in my thoughts. I am praying for all your intentions in my adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and in the celebration of the Holy Mass. Nobody of you will get sick of the virus. I have asked that from God. But, of course, you have to do your part by doing the necessary precautions. Be reminded that God's grace does not act as if magic, but "grace builds on nature". On the opposite extreme would be the mentality that prayer does not produce anything, that it is only strict adherence to the restrictions that can save us. That would be a mistake too! If the Lord does not bless what we are doing,

then all we do will be in vain..... As I have said, I am praying and celebrating the Holy Mass every day. I am praying for all your intentions. But, if I see on Facebook that somebody is celebrating a birthday or an anniversary or somebody died in the family, I make a special mention of that before the Lord in my prayers. So, if there is any particular intention that you want me to pray for or you want a Mass offered, do just send me a message or an email. Be safe everyone!