

Practicing Our Faith in the Season of COVID-19

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Bernardin Center's People of Hope Series

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Opening

Prayer in Time of Pandemic

With the prophet Joel we lament the devastation of this plague:
The priests mourn; joy and gladness are cut off before our eyes.
Disease kills countless; fear afflicts millions.

O God, can we, can our society, survive this pandemic?

All grieve at this global loss and weep at widespread adversity.

**Holy God,
Holy and Vulnerable,
Holy and Suffering One,
Have mercy on us!**

Hear us, O God.

Hear us, O God.

Uphold us with your strength.

Hear us, O God.

Give us your life.

Hear us, O God.

A time of silence is kept.

Here these words, and receive their power:

God the Father holds the universe in arms of mercy.

God the Son brought healing to the sick and suffering.

God the Spirit grants us peace within our pain.

Thanks be to God.

Thanks be to God.

—Adapted from Gail Ramshaw

End of Presentation

A Prayer of Faith and Action

Fr Goyo Hildago

Lord help me

Be prepared, but not anxious.

Be aware, but not desperate.

Be vigilant, but not in fear.

Lord, be my hope and strength!

AMEN!

Conclusion of Session

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenience
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
remember those who must choose between preserving their health
or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who settle in for quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
let choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen!

—*St Irenaeus Church, Park Forest, IL, website posting.*