Canticle of Crib, Cross, Corona

Sister Fran Gangloff, OSF
2020. The Summer of the Coronavirus.

Franciscans have long honored the Crib and the Cross as points of meditation in times of joy and sorrow.

Let us bring to our minds now Scenes of the Crib and Cross that bear on what we are experiencing as we live through and with Covid-19.
Crib
Let us pray:

We adore you,
O Christ,
and we praise you,
because by your Incarnation,
your Holy Crib,
you have transformed our World.
While we chafe and complain as we shelter in place
And have no visitors and stay home,
we call to mind Mary’s journey to Ain Karim
and her trek with Joseph to Bethlehem
where Christ Jesus was born.

We wear the masks as the good, better, best ways
to limit the contagion of coronavirus,
to protect our neighbors as well as ourselves.
In Bethlehem, Mary swaddled the Infant in cloth and love.

On Calvary, the soldiers stripped Jesus of his garments.

We are adjusting to a “new normal” with all the swaddling and stripping that befalls us.

Colorful herbs and bright pretty flowers decorate our Mother Earth with joy and comfort for us in these troubled times.
Cross
Let us pray:

We adore you, O Christ
And we praise you,
Because by your Holy Cross
You have redeemed our world
As Christ Jesus and his Mother exchanged a longing and loving glance on the Via Dolorosa, we blow kisses across the air and wave signs of peace across the aisle.

Sister Air and Clouds and all kinds of weather surround us as shelter in this pandemic storm.
It’s true.
The 12-year-old Christ got “lost” in the temple and the 33-year-old Christ fell three times as he ascended Mount Calvary.

Many of us feel lost, take a tumble, get overwhelmed by the news of the rise and fall of new cases and so many deaths from the virus. Lockdowns and closings and slow reopening test our resolve, our flexibility, our adaptability.
Veronica offered her Veil to minister to the Holy Face of Christ.

We don our masks as sacred pieces of cloth. We put on a brave face and a noble heart. We keep six feet distances as a precaution.

We regret that some did not do this soon enough and the pandemic spread like wildfire.
Brother Fire, ever playful and robust, teach us to find strength and courage and gratitude.

On the Via Dolorosa, Lord Jesus, you took time to speak to the women of Jerusalem.

Speak now, please, to every one of us as we learn new ways of togetherness in times of aloneness and solitude.
Help us learn Zoom and Facebook, WhatsApp and WWF - Words with Friends.

Help us again use email and old-fashioned mail, and phone calls. Let us be creative, like Francis and Clare, who wrote letters when they could not visit in person.

Let us consider pen pals and Facetime as we reach out to others.
Joseph in Bethlehem held the Holy Infant in his arms. On the Via Dolorosa, Simon lent his hands to helping Christ Jesus carry the Cross.

Both serve as models of mercy for the medical helpers and first responders who tend to those ill with Covid-19. They see some through to death and others to recovery and going home. And those who provide the PPE – Personal Protective Equipment and those who research vaccine solutions and recovery meds. We recall how St. Marianne Cope gave her life to be in isolation with the suffering people of Molokai.
Corona
Let us pray:
We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Sheltering Presence during this Coronavirus Pandemic, you care for the whole wide World.
The way of the Coronavirus began late 2019 and its rapid worldwide spread took us by storm and surprise as an unseen malicious enemy.

It came not as wind at our windows or knocks at our door but as a silent intruder, yes, and as invitation too, to an acceptance like Mary’s at Gabriel’s invite and to Jesus as he faced condemnation to death.
With deep faith and renewed hope, we say Yes - to masks and distancing and to washing hands and disinfecting surfaces.

Sister Water, so pure and clear, bless our washings and distancing.

Sister Stars and Moon, by your kindly light in the encircling gloom of no Masses, no Sacraments, and of so many - Oh - so many things we missed and still miss.
This Pandemic of 2020 saddened our hearts when a loved one died away from loved ones - alone - and yet together in the Communion of Saints and Clouds of Witnesses and Choirs of Angels.

Many of us had no funeral services for these loved ones, No gathering together for our mourning and grieving.
Coronavirus wraps us in lamentations and restrictions and yet, we hold our hearts in hope that a new normal will flourish like a morning star in days to come.

Brother Sun, shine on us with your Vitamin D which is preventative and curative against the virus.
May Christ Jesus,
In his Crib,
In his Cross,
and in his Sheltering
from Coronavirus
bless us
with Peace.
Credits for “Crib, Cross, Corona”


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