

***Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time***  
***October 18, 2020***

*“At that he said to them, ‘Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.’” (Matthew 22:21)*

In the Gospel for today, we hear this famous statement of Jesus concerning rendering to Caesar and to God what rightfully belongs to each. In light of our current pandemic situation, I find myself questioning if I have become so accepting of the words of Caesar, that the words of God play second fiddle within my heart.

I ask you to try and recall all of the things we have either heard or done since the virus was reported in our country. We have seen people hoard items from toilet paper to hand sanitizer. We have listened to daily briefings from expert doctors trying to follow their advice. We have watched businesses close to prevent the spread; some never to reopen their doors. Employees were deemed either essential or non-essential; costing some their jobs. We were told to social distance and wear masks to protect others as we began to “flatten the curve.” We did all these things, and so much more, without much questioning. We rendered unto Caesar as best we could.

Yet, did we render to God what was His? That is the real question we each must decide for ourselves. During these past few months, we were informed of the dispensation from the Sunday obligation to attend church. I am not going to comment upon that, it is not the focal point of the homily. What this has led me to wonder is have we been taking the time on Sunday to watch the Mass on either computer or television? Have we taken upon ourselves an extra “God based” activity - reading the Bible, praying as an individual or a family?

As we come closer to the end of these pandemic lockdowns, please, I encourage you, do not waste this valuable time to grow in your relationship with God. Make Sunday a holy day even if you are unable to attend Mass. May God bless all of us here and those who are still not able to be with us to celebrate this most beautiful Mass; this glimpse into Heaven.