

## REFLECTIONS ON THE VIRUS

I am a Catholic. That means I believe there is a God who has not only created me, but He has also created me for eternal life. I further believe that, as a member of the human race, God has made me unique among all the rest of His creation in that He has endowed me with an intellect by which I can reason and a will by which I can freely choose to embrace the good that I know or to reject that good. I believe that those who choose to live with God (who is the greatest good) will be happy with Him forever. I also believe that this life is only a short moment in our existence. As it says in Psalm 103, "As for man, his days are like grass; he flowers like the flower of the field; the wind blows and he is gone and his place never sees him again." That said, modern pagans do not believe in eternal life. They believe that life here on earth is all there is. Consequently, they believe that as long as one has "quality of life," he or she must do whatever it takes to preserve that life. Furthermore, modern medicine has allowed us to forestall death for many, many people. Those with heart disease can have pacemakers installed or valves replaced. Those with diabetes can have insulin pumps. Those with life-threatening injuries can be air-lifted to hospitals and their injuries treated. Those with infections can be given antibiotics. One hundred years ago, they would all have died, many of them young. So now, death is hidden from us, and, for the most part, only old people die. Modern pagans (and many Christians) expect that we will live a long time and that death is something one simply does not think about until one gets old. Enter the corona virus, and what is the response? Panic. Fear. Anxiety. It has been a long time since society has faced a serious disease like this. Yet, any student of human history knows that we have faced many deadly things in the past. Wars (like World War II), crop failures (like the potato famine), diseases (like polio) and natural disasters (like the eruptions of Mount Vesuvius) have resulted in the deaths of millions among both young and old. People in the past like people of today did not seek out death. Quite the contrary, they fled from death whenever they could. However, there was a difference between then and now. People of the past knew that death could come at any time, but that knowledge did not stop them from living their lives. They continued to go to school, get married, have children, go to work and worship God. Those who were Christians also knew that this earth was not their home and that if they died in a state of grace, they would live forever with God in heaven. The new pagans of today not only do not look forward to eternal life (something in which they do not believe), but they are so fearful of death that they have ceased to live. I would urge you not to follow their example. We are a people who see death as the gateway to new and eternal life. That is at the core of our faith. We should all have a great desire and hope to see God and look forward to that time. For myself, I have decided to live my life. I do not seek death, and I will do what I can to avoid it (like any normal reasonable person), but I also believe that this world is not my home. Heaven is my home, and so, if and when God calls me from this life, my goal is to be prepared for that time when I will have to give an account for how I have lived my life here on earth and of how I have used the time God has given to me.