



DIocese OF FRESNO / DIÓCESIS DE FRESNO

OFFICE OF FORMATION AND EVANGELIZATION /

OFICINA DE FORMACIÓN Y EVANGELIZACIÓN



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Spring is in the Air

After a cold Fall and Winter, and a year of pandemic, it feels like the sun is finally shining down on us. There is, indeed, a light at the end of the tunnel!

What does that mean for us as we try to get back to “normal”?

I propose that really, there is no “normal”. Just like any profound experience in our lives, what we have experienced for the past year has changed us, no matter how hard we want to bounce back and be our usual selves again. We have experienced so many profound events and situations, both individually and as a community of faith.

Of one thing we can be very sure: no matter what has happened and what we have experienced, we are assured of God’s love for us and the love and support of our faith community. Of that, there can be no doubt.

I also assert one more thing we can be sure of: we have all learned something new about ourselves and our families during this time.

- *Those of us who stayed home for several months may have learned that we enjoyed gardening or are great cook, activities perhaps we did not have time for before the stay-at-home order.*
- *For our teachers and catechists, who tried to keep education and formation going, you definitely had to learn some new skills in virtual teaching, planning, and completely restructuring your teaching methods. Thank you for the extra hours of work and stress you experienced.*
- *For those who were essential workers, working in our hospitals, as first responders, or as workers in fields or the stores who made sure we had food available, hopefully you saw a new appreciation for the sacrifice you made for the common good. Thank you for putting your lives and the lives of your family on the line daily.*

Yes, there was a lot of sadness, mourning, depression, and frustration, but as we are hopefully headed to a more positive place, let us keep in mind the blessings we were able to find, and carry them over to our “new normal”. Let’s keep our focus on the positives and make sure we don’t lose them as we move forward: hope, compassion, and community.

We ask God’s blessing as we step forward, that we continue to be safe, and continue to find ways to share God’s love with one another.



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