

The Walls of Life  
*(posted March 24, 2020)*

These walls of life are real and functioning “big time” during this current crisis. But those walls do not have to hem us in. Confidence in our abilities as people can always push us forward and give us reason to believe “this too will pass.” I am a person who likes to be busy and feeling young. All of a sudden, my busyness has walls. I create a schedule for each; when to get up and go to bed / what to do in between, including exercise. Our minds need to be busy along with our bodies as well. If we do nothing at all, those walls become very frightening.

We live in a time of great flux – pressure coming from all angles – forcing us to make choices. Sometimes it is extremely difficult to make the right choice. And sometimes we just refuse to make that choice. What happens then can change things forever. This is not just person to person. It can be family to family - nation to nation. Families and young people have a difficult time understanding how to survive while not being able

to physically see one another, or show affection. It is a difficult time for certain, but it is also a time to reflect on our lives, appreciate what we have and the love we can share with family, friends and colleagues – even electronically.

One of my dearest friends, whom I've known for 45 years, responded to my inquiry asking how he was doing during this crisis? He, as always, came up with incredible thought. He said, "I've decided that I need to make my world a lot smaller – almost like a hermitage." He continued..."I'm taking a close look at my life, the busyness, the friends and all the responsibilities I have, I want to embrace them all with the peace and compassion I have for them, by sending notes, texting short positive words, exchanging fond memories of days gone by, and to encourage them to look to the future when we can do these things in the flesh." This friend is 82 years young – one whom I look up to, and have for all these years. He put this crisis in perspective for me.

All of you, and your families, have been through a lot – staying vigil and strong is how you are

supposed to operate. Sometimes that takes its toll. You're not supposed to show anxiousness or fear. But the human side for all of us cannot be controlled 100% when those walls seem to be overwhelming. My friends, please know that what you do as professionals, as parents, as husbands and wives, gives you incredible strength that keeps you going, no matter how challenging. these days can be. I want to encourage you, as my dear friend encouraged me – stay the course – look at your world and appreciate how it is made up. If you have the time – pick up the phone and call / Text / email / FaceTime, all of those who mean so much to you, including me. Appreciate who you are, your gifts and talents, the unique person that you are, and let those gifts surround you like light and stay positive.

Fr. Michael Drury