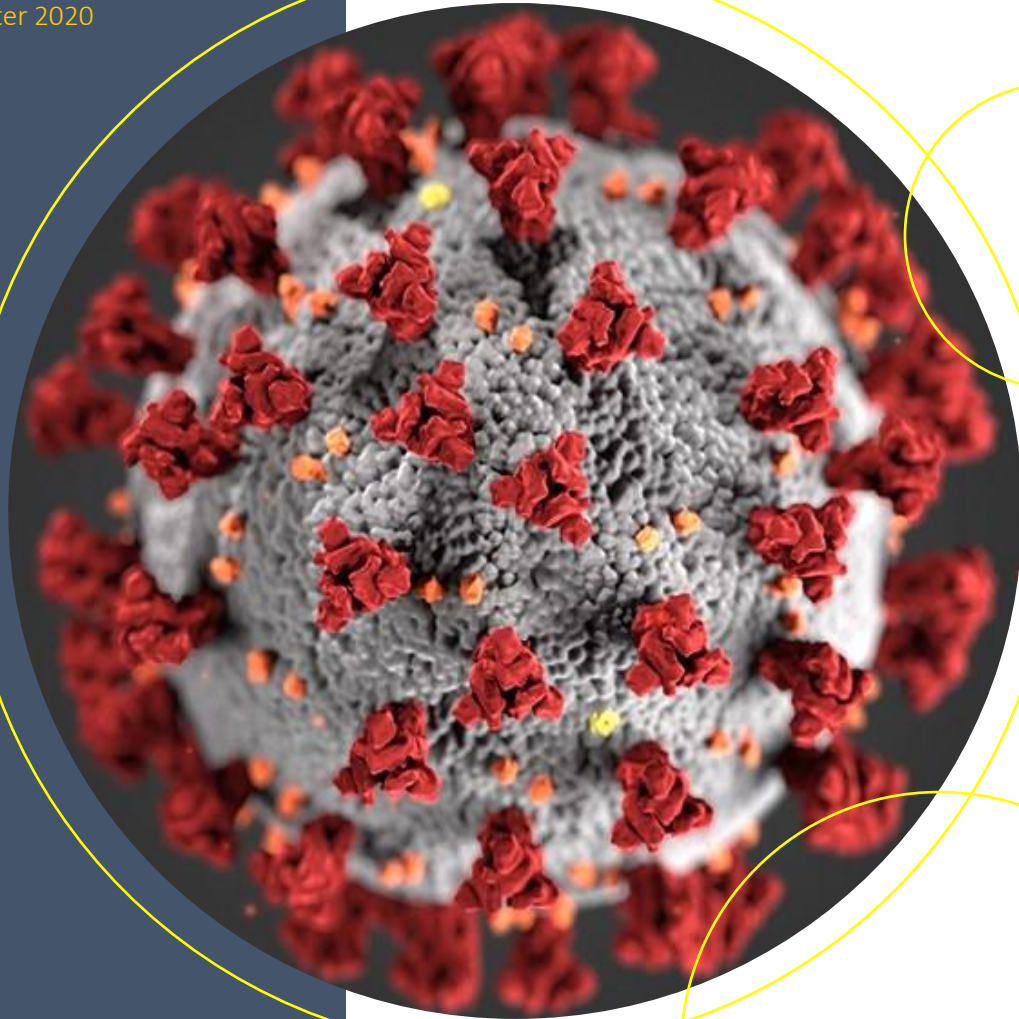




RELIGIOUS STUDIES INSIDERS

Winter 2020



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PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S CORNER

I can hardly believe this photo was from only 2 weeks ago. We went from carefree family vacation to a regular work week to... something completely different. I'm working from home. My husband is working from home. And my son is staying home from daycare as well. For me, work now shares space with Play-doh. The printer alternates between rough drafts of student work and coloring sheets of Daniel Tiger. I feel so sad thinking of all the social interactions my son is missing.

I know you all are making some big adjustments as well. Many of you have moved back home and some of you have lost your source of income. We're all a little stressed.

This is the kind of season that calls us to turn to our friends and family and to focus on our relationships with each other, but, of course... social distancing.

What worse possible time could there be to have to pull away from family and friends?!

Christian theology teaches us that to be a human being is to be a spirit AND a body – Jesus still had a body even after the Resurrection! That's why it doesn't ever feel like enough to talk on the phone or wave across the street. We crave physical presence and physical contact. I don't know if you intended to give something up for Lent – but we all have. Lent is a season of introspection and stepping away, but only to come back with one's desires newly aligned with God's and one's sense of mission more strongly aflame. I don't know when the Coronavirus Easter will be. But I do hope that we will come back to our relationships, our downtowns, and our university ready to engage more deeply than we've ever known how to before.

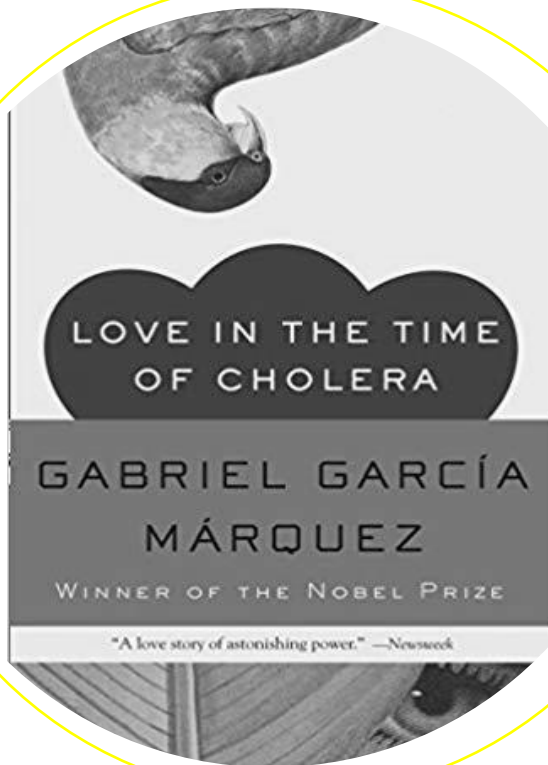
With that in mind, I've included in this issue some of the most helpful little snippets of wisdom that I've found so far regarding how to cope while social distancing. I hope you find them helpful.

- Dr. Crosby

When this is over,
 may we never again
 take for granted
 A handshake with a stranger
 Full shelves at the store
 Conversations with neighbors
 A crowded theatre
 Friday night out
 The taste of communion
 A routine checkup
 The school rush each morning
 Coffee with a friend
 The stadium roaring
 Each deep breath
 A boring Tuesday
 Life itself.

When this ends,
 may we find
 that we have become
 more like the people
 we wanted to be
 we were called to be
 we hoped to be
 and may we stay
 that way—better
 for each other
 because of the worst.

LAURA KELLY FANUCCI



THINGS TO DO WHILE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Your Homework
- Prepare for Hebrew Bible with Dr. Bell in the fall by watching youtube videos by The Bible Project:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/jointhebibleproject>
- Watch "Good Omens" on Amazon Prime and read Dr. Crosby's article about it:
<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2019/11/01/good-theology-good-omens>
- Read *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel García Márquez so you get the title of Fr. James Martin's piece "Faith in the Time of Coronavirus":
<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/03/13/faith-time-coronavirus>

IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

"And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

"And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

"And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed."

~Kitty O'Meara

Originally posted at <https://the-daily-round.com/>

"There are times when even brightness seems dim; when progress seems like regression;

When the easy seems more difficult, and virtue seems empty, inadequate and frail; times when purity seems sullied;

When even reality seems unreal, and when a square seems to have corners;

When even great talent is of no avail, and the highest note cannot be heard;

When the formed seems formless, and when the way of nature is out of sight.

Even in such times as these, the natural way still nourishes that all things may be fulfilled."



Image by Andy Marlette

Notice that open elective spot for Winter 2021?

Watch your email in the coming weeks for a poll about what should fill that spot. Will it be...

Theology & Science Fiction?

Christianity and Race?

Something else?

If you already know there's a topic you'd love to explore (whether it's already in the course catalog or not) let me know! Otherwise, just wait for the poll.

FALL 2020 COURSES

RST 102: Intro to Christian Theology – Crosby

RST 103: Catholicism Today – Raab

RST 104: Introduction to the Bible – Bell

RST 302: Hebrew Scriptures – Bell

RST 305: Theological Ethics – Raab

RST 318: Values in Video – Crosby

WINTER 2021 SNEAK PEAK

(TENTATIVE)

RST 102: Intro to Christian Theology – ?

RST 103: Catholicism Today – ?

RST 104: Introduction to the Bible – Bell

RST 303: Christian New Testament – Bell

- Take this if you are taking Hebrew Scriptures in the Fall

RST 314: World Religions – Raab

RST ????: Open Elective – ?