

> Dearly Beloved,

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> Let's revisit thoughts I shared with you in mid April. My Dearly Beloved email to you then was about Grace Moments, those moments that are happening everyday of our lives which are reminders that our Risen Christ is present with us, at work loving us in and through life, and now through our present nightmare.

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> Grace Moments can be as Jeanne Holl shared with me; the moment of awakening each day, awareness of her breathing, someone calling to check on her, and being greeted by grandchildren. And I can add hearing gales of laughter from two women Jane and I couldn't see as we ate lunch at Ruby Tuesday's. Grace Moments can sometimes be uncomfortable awakenings as listening to someone of a different race share with me the pain of growing up in a discriminating environment and realizing that God must believe I can make a difference in the healing of our painful divisions through his love in me.

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> To be aware of these is to live in Hope and gratefulness. To be aware of these is to be strengthened and encouraged in the midst of challenges, losses, disappointments, grieving, boredom, frustration, loneliness, and fear. To be aware of Grace Moments happening in your life is a reminder that you are not alone, that this earth is crammed with heaven even in the midst of sorrow and disappointment.

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> I encourage you to practice daily being aware of your Grace Moments and keeping a journal as an ongoing reminder, but also to help you grow in awareness of these indispensable opportunities to become more connected with Jesus as your constant companion. I use the word "indispensable" because our connection with Jesus is essential if we want to navigate the murky and stormy waters in which we presently find ourselves. Racial injustice uprisings, COVID 19 warnings and uncertainties, economic pressures and painful realities, physical distancing, personal health issues, and other challenges are creating a "perfect storm".

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> We simply cannot navigate this storm alone with any hope of success. To try to do it alone without the help of Jesus who knows the way that is best for us and is yearning to enable us to make it is for me like trying to sail a boat without a rudder in a storm. We are at the mercy of the wind blowing from all directions. Without a rudder it's impossible to know what will become of us, but I have found Jesus to be that for me. So my continuing encouragement for you to is find those ways daily that help you to experience the presence of God with you to love you day by day through this "perfect storm" knowing that uncertainty and unexpected changes will continue to be with us.

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> If we stay centered on Jesus we are not likely to lose our balance or our purpose to bear witness to him in our words and actions by loving all whom he loves with the love he breathes into us, by being a presence of Hope and compassion. We might even discover ourselves laughing with Sarah and Abraham at the absurdity of what God intends to accomplish through us and will accomplish through us if we are willing to travel with him. It never ceases to amaze me what we can do when we allow God to strengthen us, love us and lead us.

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> Bless be the tie that binds our hearts in mutual love.

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> In Christ's Love, Fr. Bob