



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

St. Paul has some encouraging words for us today:

**We know that all things work for good for those who love God.** (Romans 8:28)

Especially in this trying time, we can forget that *all things* work for good for those who love God – not just some things, not just the things we deem “good” – but ALL THINGS!

That’s pretty powerful. That’s something to which we need to cling! God loves us so much, He’s got everything in His hands. St. Maximilian Kolbe says that everything that doesn’t come from our own will comes to us through the hands of Mary. Even if it comes from the evil will of another, it comes through her motherly hands. (Remember that St. Maximilian experienced great evil through the hands of the Nazis, having been sent to Auschwitz, tortured with starvation, and finally killed with an injection of carbolic acid. Yet, He still trusted his mother, whom he called *Immaculata*.) So no matter what happens, we can trust in God’s love for us, as well as the intercession of Mary our Mother.

I forget this truth so easily. I think that’s why I get stressed, anxious or worried. Yet, when I remember this truth, when I remember how loved I am, everything is okay. COVID-19 – or any other trial, tribulation, sickness, or sadness – has *nothing* – **nothing**, I tell you – on our Father’s love for us!

I’ve shared this before, but I think it bears remembering: Blessed Solanus Casey said, “Thank God ahead of time.” I think this might be the secret to peace. When we thank God ahead of time – before we can see the results, before we know what will happen, before we can even tell what we’re supposed to do, even while we are in the midst of turmoil and trials – it is a conscious decision to trust God. When we make that decision to thank Him ahead of time, we’re saying, “I know you have this, even though I can’t see how it will work out.” And in that, we recognize that *this situation*, right here, right now, will work for good, because we love God and *He loves us*.

So why do we forget? It’s the original lie, connected to the Original Sin. Do you remember Satan’s lie to Eve in the Garden of Eden? He begins by putting doubt into Eve’s head, doubt that God really loves her and will care for her:

**“Did God really say, ‘You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden?’”**

(Genesis 3:1)

Think about Eve’s internal reaction to this: “Imagine if He did?! What would we do then? What could we possibly eat?!” Instead of recognizing the incredible abundance of God’s providence (that He is providing a huge garden of food from which to eat), Satan gets Eve to begin doubting His love. Satan then goes on to tell Eve that God is afraid of her, that He sees Eve as a rival, and is keeping something important from her:

**“God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know good and evil.”** (Genesis 3:5)

But the truth is that God is not a rival. He is a Father who deeply loves His children. This lie is the primordial lie that still speaks to our hearts today. This is why we doubt that God is taking care of us. This is why we doubt that “all things work for good for those who love God.” With the Fall, with the brokenness of the Original Sin, this lie has created a division between us and God that makes us believe that He is out to get us.

**DON’T BELIEVE THIS LIE!** Don’t allow it to stay rooted in your life! Counter that lie with the wisdom of Bl. Solanus Casey, with the wisdom of St. Maximilian Kolbe, with the wisdom of St. Paul. Thank God ahead of time! Make acts of faith that everything that happens to you comes through Mary’s hands. Make acts of faith that all things work for good for those who love God.