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Companions on the Journey

August 29, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

Here we are a week from Labor Day. Many schools have begun to return to activity, with some a little later on. There are still issues with live versus virtual schooling. There are still issues with mandatory masking for children with parents of strong viewpoints on each side of the issue. Many businesses that planned for a September or October return to ordinary functioning, or more ordinary functioning than the last eighteen months, have had to redo their scheduling, yet again, because of the flare-up of the delta Variation and its higher contamination level.

I was speaking to a young man who works in Big Pharma and is a scientist in his own right and he is struggling with his family situation having just been told that his company is going to mandate vaccination for all employees. I asked if he did not want to be vaccinated if that would mean he would have to undergo a weekly virus testing. He said that if he refused he would no longer have a job. He has read all the reports but his personal and familial situation is such that his judgment is that right now it would not be wise to get vaccinated. He is not an anti-vaccine person. He has about two months to decide. I told him that I would pray for him and his spouse. And I will. And he said that he too was really going to pray about enlightenment to make the right decision. He is really on the horns of a dilemma. He then said something very curious to me, "Father, I almost feel like I am under attack. That there is something spiritual going on here. But I don't know exactly what it is." I was very surprised to hear a young man working in a big pharmaceutical company speak of being under spiritual assault but that is what he said.

I do know this. The enemy senses how people are very divided over all of this corona virus and he will sow seeds of discord anywhere and everywhere he can. This young man senses that there is something undercutting his wanting to make the best and most moral decision for his family and himself. His job is at risk. His livelihood is at risk. His very young family is at risk. He wants to do the right thing but feels he is being forced to do something he is not sure of.

There are conflicting voices even from our medical and scientific leaders and from our political leaders. You can find a lot of support and a lot of articles and studies to support a whole host of differing viewpoints many of which are contradictory. We, as humans, hate all of that. We want to know and to assess and then decide. That is how we are made and how we best function. But we must add prayer to the equation. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of enlightenment and guidance. The Holy Spirit is God's truth in each person who believes. Let us all pray more to the holy Spirit so that we can come to the very best decisions we can make about the best way to avoid and to ward off this corona-virus. Let us also pray to Our Lord to lead us to the Truth and give us the courage to embrace it.

Peace,

Msgr. McHenry