

COVID 19 - SIGNS of our TIMES!

Recently a good friend of mine candidly shared with me what for him was the most difficult experience of this COVID 19 lockdown, it was the virtual prohibition in being able to appropriately touch people.

For generations in Western society, it has been a tradition when shaking a person's hand, it conveyed the sentiment it's nice to see or meet you or after a game conveying some thanks. Or to tap someone on the back or cheek it implied that they're valued. Physical signs so often express a silent language that's able to convey some healthy enduring life messages to people.

I have real doubts when the current lockdown is over that most people will immediately feel comfortable to again relate to others in a healthy tactile way. And if this is the case it will probably accelerate difficult interactive relationships. Of course, some people have always been a bit too presumptuous in being appropriately tactile towards others!

Jesus of Nazareth was often physically tactile in how he related to other people especially when he healed them. It's recalled how he healed the deafness in a man's ear by placing his fingers in his ear. Then he allowed the bleeding woman to openly touch him that then made himself ritually unclean.

When we hear the words; *"that he touched the man's ear and healed him"* (Luke Chapter 22 verse 51) this touching conveyed far more than just a valued physical healing! *Fr Martin R Maunsell*