

## YOU WERE ASKING . . . by Msgr. Pat Stilla

**Q.** Why is it that so many bad things are suddenly happening in our world today in the midst of this already “bad” health crisis that we are experiencing? I am beginning to feel very frightened.

**A.** When we think of the recent mass shooting rampage in Nova Scotia, the brutal killing of George Floyd, the current increase in domestic violence and emotional upset and the loss of employment and livelihood for individuals in families and for business owners, it certainly does seem that our world is experiencing more than its share of major tragic events today.

### Why now?

Unfortunately the so-called “bad” things that are happening in our world today are not suddenly just happening now. They always happen on a daily basis, whether or not there is a pandemic. The difference is that we

don't usually notice their presence or their frequency. Our awareness of them is simply amplified by a sense of personal uncertainty that we now feel in this current crisis. Evil can also deceive us into thinking that only bad things are happening today more than ever. In fact, we know that many good experiences and lessons have resulted from our current situation. This crisis has heightened our appreciation of the importance of cooperation among all nations, the recognition of the value of family and community life and the necessity of social interaction and communication, to only name a few.

### Evil is deceptive and often begets more evil

Whether it be ‘moral’, ‘social’ or ‘in nature itself’, like the current health crisis, evil almost always causes deception, chaos, the questioning of Faith, terror, panic, mass destruction and often, even more forms of moral or social evil. When we notice many events happening all around us, evil can deceive us into thinking one of 3 things:



Evil's power is deceptive: like a wolf in sheep's clothing

n that the things which are happening now are worse than ever and as such, they will eventually succeed in destroying our world, despite our best efforts or;

n that they are not serious enough to worry about or to engage

our efforts to oppose and correct them, or;

n that they don't directly affect us and so we shouldn't get involved at all.

Of course, once we do realize that these “bad” events may actually be serious enough, that they have been quickly accumulating all around us, and that they may directly affect us, we feel overwhelmed and are tempted to give way to distress. You seem to have arrived at that point. It is important that you calm your fear and your anxiety because, as a person of Faith you know that Christ has conquered all evil and that we are empowered by Him to do the same.