

The Devastating Pandemic

The horrifying incidence that I witnessed in the hospital where I work, still causes me to shudder. A young lady in her ninth month tested positive for COVID and was admitted to the ICU with critical symptoms. The efficient team of gynaecologists managed to conduct her caesarean section and deliver twin babies but could not save the mother. I have vivid memories of the devastated look on her husband's face.

An ICU nurse in the same hospital was stressed out at work with too many COVID patients to attend. She had long working hours and was a single parent managing her home too. She sustained a sudden heart attack while at work, leaving no chance for her team mates to resuscitate her.

A young man in my neighbourhood committed suicide by jumping off from the tenth floor, because he could not cope with the financial crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an extraordinary level of stress to the vulnerable population. Women in particular are victims of domestic violence, men who are bread earners are bogged down by financial crisis and loss of employment, students and youngsters are stressed out due to social isolation and families are combating poor health status and loss of family members. Although all religious places of worship are closed, I believe that these days of despair have brought us closer to God as we believe in him to show us the light at the end of this dark tunnel.

For me as a tennis player it has been quite stressful to be home bound with no play, no tournaments and no travel. But the tennis academy kept me occupied with some high intensity virtual fitness sessions. Besides this, ASU has been quite successful in keeping students like me motivated in going through the semesters with innovative teaching pedagogy. I should consider myself as blessed by God as me and my family are safe so far. In fact I have the privilege of celebrating my parent's silver wedding anniversary today. As Catholic Christians we have organized a virtual mass today followed by a virtual celebration and we are looking forward to some bright moments amidst the dark days.