

# WEEKLY REPORT

*The latest news and updates from Everest Academy Manila LS*



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**Husky Times**

## Celebrating Holy Week 2020 During the COVID Outbreak

*by Lucas Peterson*

**H**oly Week is a very important time for Catholics because it commemorates Jesus' suffering and death. However, the hope of Jesus rising is also celebrated and everyone looks forward to it at the end of Holy Week: Easter!

Holy Week this year starts on April 5, Palm Sunday, until April 12, Easter. In between is Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Black Saturday. On Maundy Thursday, Filipinos normally participate in a *Visita Iglesia*. We go around visiting churches and as we visit each church, Stations of the Cross are prayed. On Good Friday, we reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. This is usually when



Filipinos practice the *Pasyon*, which is a hymn of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Lastly, on Black Saturday, we mourn for Jesus' death.

Typically, Filipinos use Holy Week as an opportunity to travel back to their hometowns or provinces and squeeze in a mini vacation before going back to the grind. But no matter where Filipinos are, we find a way to celebrate this holy time. Even if it means being stuck in our own houses.

Holy Week is different this year. The whole of Luzon and even other parts of the country are on Enhanced Community Quarantine because of the threat of the Coronavirus, COVID-19. People are advised to avoid crowded places and practice social distancing, which is difficult to do in public places like churches. But just because we are stuck at home doesn't mean we cannot do our Holy Week traditions. There are other ways to celebrate Holy Week.

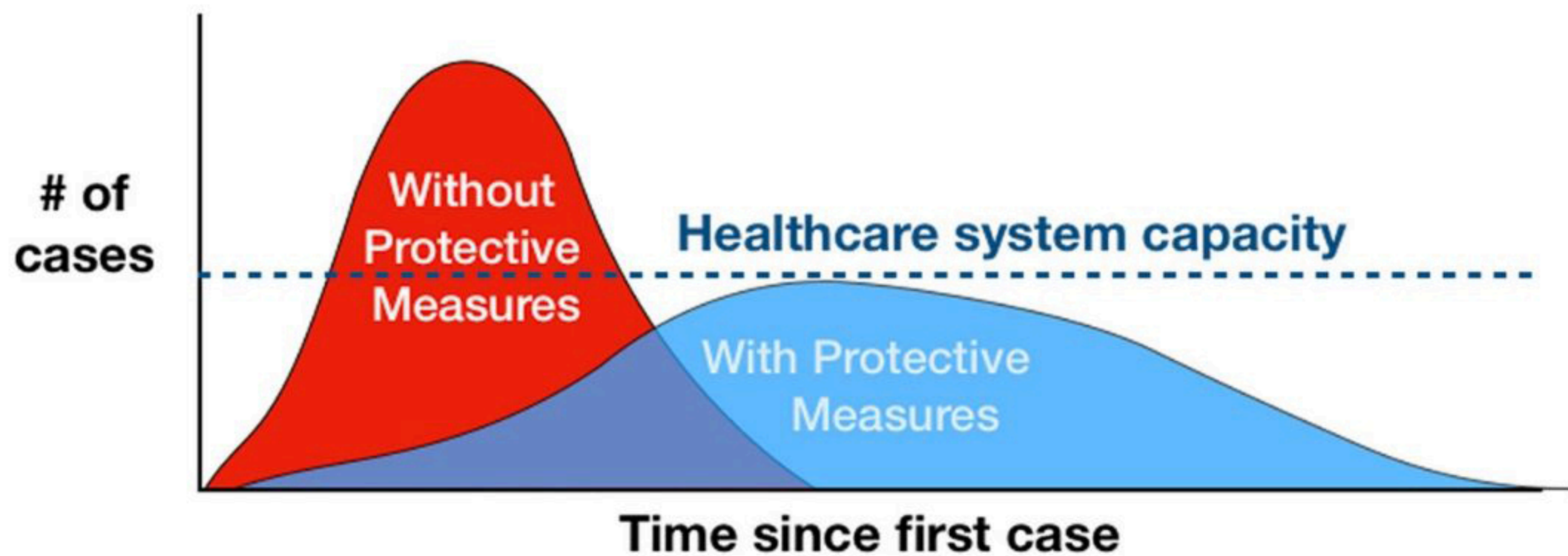
One of them is praying with the Pope. Two weeks ago, Pope Francis blessed the world with *Urbi et Orbi* (of Rome and to the World). It is a special blessing given by the Pope during special occasions and this was given when we all prayed together to stop COVID-19 from spreading. Another way is to attend online mass and special prayers through many channels like the Regnum Christi website or Manila Cathedral Website. Other communities also have their own links on Facebook to daily masses. For those interested in attending a retreat, there is a Jesuit website called [www.pinsoflight.com](http://www.pinsoflight.com) where there is an Online Lenten Retreat and Virtual Stations of the Cross.

With technology, we are still able to celebrate Holy Week. What is most important is that we stay home with our families and pray together to celebrate the joy of Easter and Jesus' Resurrection.



### **Urbi et Orbi 2020.**

The Pope blessing the world on Mar 27.



*Adapted from CDC / The Economist*

### Graph showing importance of flattening the curve.

Taken from Jackson Free Press, adapted from the CDC

## COVID-19: Flattening the Curve

by Anikka Marcos

**C**COVID-19 is a virus that has spread around the world and has affected the lives of many. As the virus is contagious and deadly, we should try our best to prevent this virus from spreading.

Coronavirus first emerged in Wuhan, China in December. By March, more than half of the world reported cases of infection and death, that the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the virus a pandemic. In response to this pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended social distancing and increased hygienic practices.

Social distancing is what we need to follow when we go out of the house to buy supplies that we need. People are recommended to stay at least 1 meter away from each other at all times. The consequences of not following

social distancing is that we could get the virus (COVID-19) from each other if we stick together. To support the world's effort more in stopping the virus, many countries have imposed a lockdown or community quarantines to help "flatten the curve". Flattening the curve means that the number of cases will not go up anymore, it controls the number of people getting this virus. It will greatly help the situation because it reduces the number of people getting the virus.

The Philippines is not at the peak of the virus yet. We are still testing a lot of people who are sick. Luzon is already on lockdown, so a lot of people are staying home. There are also many people helping the poor and the frontliners. The Coronavirus may be spreading, but there is still some hope that we will be able to stop it.

Last February 10, 2020, there was a frightening fire that happened behind Everest Academy Manila. Thick black smoke rose behind Everest, and for a while, it looked like Everest was on fire! Luckily, many were already home. But for the people who were at school, this wasn't a very lucky day.

The regular dismissal procedures were interrupted and this left many students confused on where to go for pick up. The guards were trying to do their best but the huge fire truck that occupied one side of the street also added to the general chaos and already heavy traffic.

The fire happened in the property behind the fence near the Upper School. The fire was close to most of the classrooms in Upper School. Many were frightened by the large tower of smoke that rose to the sky.

What is most important to remember during a fire is to stay calm. Panicking will not help anyone. Though Everest has annual fire drills, the scenario everyone is accustomed to was a fire breaking out during class. No one ever practised for a fire that would happen after students were dismissed from their classrooms. Thankfully, everyone still knew the proper actions to take. Everyone proceeded to opposite sides of the street, away from the fire. Many fetchers were

## A Blazing Fire Behind Everest Academy

by Maica Gloria



### Fire behind Everest.

Picture taken by teachers during the evacuation.

also escorted by the guards away from the fire. In the end, everyone was safely picked up by their fetchers and no student was lost.

The evacuation was scary, to say the least. Some students had clubs and were in the library in the Upper School building where they could see the smoke so close to them. Luckily, the fire did not cause any damage. But inspections of the building were conducted to ensure safety. Everyone is so grateful to the firemen who arrived quickly and handled the fire immediately.