

**Reflection: We Serve The Great “I AM.” – Thursday 5th Week of Lent
(Genesis 17:3-9, John 8:51-59) By Fr. Emmanuel Subaar**

When I celebrated my first thanksgiving mass the next day after my ordination, I used Exodus 3:14b as a caption on my invitation cards which reads, “I AM has sent me to you.” I felt like this speaks to us as a fundamental assurance of God not only to me as a priest but to every Christian that we serve the great “I AM.”

Of course, there has been arguments regarding the real name of God and the Tetragrammaton (Hebrew four consonant word YHWH) gives rise to names like YaHWeH, JeHoVaH etc. But I think Jesus resolves our doubts by referring to himself as the great “I AM.” He told the Jews in today’s gospel, “before Abraham came to be, I AM.” This means Jesus preceded Abraham and creation. He is the same God who revealed himself to Moses as “I AM WHO I AM.”

We trust Jesus the great “I AM” as our great healer and loving God. The beauty of our Catholic Faith is that we have a God who is the same Yesterday, Today and Forever. All of us Catholics pray the “Glory be to the Father prayer” almost every day which we end by saying, “As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.” As we are battling with this Global Pandemic, we still have an unchanging God, he is the same God actively working miracles in the midst of our doubts.

Just take a moment to pray the 14 Holy Helpers Novena against Coronavirus. I am already on day 8 of the Novena. You can start or join in praying this prayer for nine days. I have provided below the Novena Prayer again.

Novena Prayer (pray each day for nine days)

O Fourteen Holy Helpers, select friends of God, I honor thee as mighty intercessors, and come with filial confidence to thee in my needs, for the relief of which I have undertaken to make in this novena.

Help me by thy intercession to placate God's divine and just wrath, which I have provoked by my many sins, and aid me in amending my life and doing penance. Because you persevered till death, you gained the crown of eternal life.

Remember the dangers that surround us in this vale of tears, especially the pandemic of coronavirus, and intercede for us in all our needs and adversities.

(Mention your intention here)

Great princes of heaven, Holy Helpers, who sacrificed to God all your earthly possessions, wealth, preferment, and even life, and who now are crowned in heaven in the secure enjoyment of eternal bliss and glory, have compassion on me, a poor sinner in this vale of tears, and obtain for me from God, for Whom you gave up all things and Who loves you as His servants, the strength to bear patiently all the trials of this life, to overcome all temptations, and to persevere in God's service to

the end, that one day I too may be received into your company, to praise and glorify Him, the supreme Lord, Whose beatific vision you enjoy, and Whom you praise and glorify forever. Amen.