

# Where Did All the Toilet Paper Go? And the Food?

....*and*...

*By Kat Rowoldt*

I find it hard to believe it was just one month ago I worked a very long day as a Poll Judge for the primary election. That was March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Life was pretty normal then. We were not social distancing or hoarding toilet paper. Restaurants were buzzing with their normal rush hours and life was moving along like always.



Then suddenly, without warning, a major shift happened. We all felt a need to begin to stock-up a bit on groceries and other things. Overnight the most highly sought-after item was toilet paper. Who knew we loved it so much? People who rarely cook felt an urge to have real food in their homes. The life-long dream of students to have a spring break that never-ended became reality. Teachers are being paid while NOT being in their real classrooms. The government is having the IRS put money back into our bank accounts. Pinch me, I'm dreaming!

Did we just step into the TWILIGHT ZONE? It feels like it. One of my businesses is going like crazy and I'm working fourteen to sixteen-hour days. My husband who faithfully gets up and goes to work every day is now a fabulous chef. You should try his chicken spaghetti, Mississippi Mud roast, or his latest pot of beans. He even makes a bologna sandwich taste good!

It has been interesting to ponder why the store shelves were being bought out like crazy. Even with all the "Y2K" type rumors of disaster and fears being fed upon, the reality is when you suddenly shift where the majority of the population gets its meals, you're going to need a period of time for adjustment. Overnight the school cafeterias, restaurants, and many offices lost their daily consumers and they needed food at home. Grocery stores were not prepared for an overnight change. People instinctively began buying more for their daily consumption at the local groceries, versus the commercial restaurant suppliers who had been their food source based on where they had typically been eating.

We saw restaurants selling their overstocked supplies so they wouldn't go bad. Think about it - even where people go to the bathroom shifted - hence the run on toilet paper. Your office manager, restaurant, or school was no longer supplying this need for you. Hmmm...

So, what is really happening? If you spend any time at all on Facebook, you'll get a little taste of every conspiracy theory and then some. I too at first reacted with a bit of ruffled feathers because my Constitutional rights were being trampled. I pulled back and began to watch for days the various twists and turns so many of my friends and acquaintances were spouting off about and listening to their arguments.

It is true we do lose more people to the annual flu season than we have seen so far with COVID-19. Why such a huge shut-down was required is still a bit confusing. But then you hear of people you personally know who have family members who are personally fighting the disease. You see the numbers growing on how many people are infected and the death toll rising. Suddenly you begin to take extra precautions.

We don't have all the answers. Maybe we never will. I do know this. If America was the only country doing this shutdown, I'd be throwing a fit. We are not. The whole world has been put on PAUSE. We have never been this way before. It's weird. It's annoying. It's boring. It's challenging. It feels like time has stopped. All we know is that we will get through whatever this is.

I'm so thankful our leader is President Donald J. Trump and not Hillary Clinton at this time. I believe we are in good hands with Trump, if they would just let him lead. He's the right man for such a time as this.

Oddly, though... In this crazy secular world in which we live, God has been rising through it all. Pastors are astounded at the viewing numbers they are receiving from their livestreams, something that wasn't happening a month ago. Facebook is flooded with amazing gatherings like what happened here in San Angelo the other night (Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 8pm). Three of our largest parking lots around Shannon Hospital were filled with Christians and people who came out to Praise the Lord from their cars and thank the nursing staff at the hospital who are attending to the patients with the Coronavirus.

Headlights flashing, prayers being lifted, songs being sung, nurses peered out the hospital windows, God was glorified while thanking those who are being the hands and feet of Christ in caring for their patients. Maybe we needed this PAUSE to put our priorities back in order.

Today we find families eating their meals together around the family dinner table. People long to go to church in person. The most popular thing on Facebook are countless people preaching the Word of God to everyone who scrolls by their post, regardless of the day of the week or the hour. Parents are once again involved in their children's education. This is going to have amazing results and bear fruit that will last a lifetime.

God has our attention now. Maybe it's time we let Him know how much we love Him and finally begin to put Him first before ourselves.

Since being homebound, my husband and I have been doing communion daily together. The first few days I broke into tears each time because it had a new and enhanced meaning for me. I believe this is a practice that we will continue to do long after this crisis has passed.

I pray this "Kat Notes" has found you and yours well. I pray that you are being blessed in totally new ways during this season. God has a reason for this season too. Resurrection Sunday is coming. It now has a whole new reality to it for each of us personally. Consider well what the Lord would want you to learn during this time.

I look forward to chatting with each of you soon in person at church, our favorite restaurants, our political gatherings, and just soaking up the sun together.

Blessings...

*Kat Rowoldt*

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