Springtime in the midst of chaos

During my last furlough week, Joe and I spent our late evenings watching a limited series called "The New Look." It's the story of great French fashion designers Coco Chanel and Christian Dior, and it begins in WWII. As their lives are upended. Dior is trying to find his sister, recently arrested by the Nazis. Chanel colludes with Nazis in order to stop her former business partners from stealing her perfume formula.

In the midst of spying, torture, bombings, exile, and rumors of atrocities in German camps, they work: She to expand her brand, he to build his own. They keep working in an industry built on beauty, in a nation inspired by beauty.

I can't even comprehend Coco Chanel doing what she did. But aside from her treachery, I was shocked that people could just continue working with everything crumbling down around them.

Then again, what choice did they have? People continue needing food, medicine, and other staples of life. The globe keeps spinning. During the early days of the Covid pandemic, when we were all stuck at home and separated from each other, spring came. Flowers bloomed, grasses grew, strawberries spread, deer fed on our landscapes, and we tended to it all.

Because what else could we do?

As global conflicts affect campus life and the political landscape here in the United States, and as families and friends are afraid to speak to each other about the conflict, I worry that things are going to get much worse everywhere over the next few months. I worry that what happens here vis a vis our national elections, will have negative effects that reach across the globe and the coming decades. I pray I'm wrong.

But if I am right, we will keep working because the flowers will still bloom, the children will still have to be fed, and the sick and dying will still deserve to be tended to. I just hope we can be like Christian Dior, working

for beauty and resolution, doing whatever we can. And not like Coco Chanel, serving herself. There's already too much of that going on.

In Peace,
Rev Denis