

Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Monday, March 23, 2020



Dear Parishioners and Friends ~

Today's Scriptures for Mass are: Is 65:17-21 and Jn 4:43-54

The Scriptures for today are filled with hope and hope is what keeps us moving. Imagine what it would be like if all we depended on was the here and now with no vision or hope for the future! Not only would society at large be depressing but so would any view of life after death. This is one of the tragic mistakes made by people like Karl Marx and subsequent followers who adopted his philosophy. Oh, sure, his "proletariat of the masses" and "dialectic materialism" which is devoid of any belief in God sounded good but it was never really put into practice. Those who managed to claw their way to the top of the pile lived good lives – until they ran afoul of others who could climb higher than they – but vast majority of the "masses" lived in abject poverty with little hope. Eventually, every society whose foundation depends on the here and now, ignoring the natural law which is embodied in the Ten Commandments, as Marxist philosophy does, are doomed to fail. Isn't that the history of Eastern European communism? We in the west aren't immune from this, either. Activists and philosophers like Saul Alinsky and Herbert Marcuse thought they had the answers to life's situations but they and their thought-partners generally lived unhappy, unfulfilled lives. Alinsky even said that if there is an afterlife with heaven and hell he would without a second's hesitation choose hell because once he got there he would start organizing. Organizing what, and what would it get him except more misery? He started out with good ideas, but good ideas separated from the foundational principle of God are doomed to fail.

Today's First Reading from Isaiah describes the bold, new future promised by God for those who put their trust in Him. Maybe it won't be realized in this life but it certainly will in the next. The human person is not just a physical being but one of body and soul, the soul being what animates and gives us life. The gospel is the account where Jesus healed the son of the royal official who came to Jesus seeking healing for his son. The most telling line of this passage is three words: "The man believed..." – and his son was healed. Because that man believed that Jesus could and would work a miracle which prompted his request, his son was restored to full health.

In these scary times we are prompted to come to Jesus and ask for healing; certainly physical healing and protection from the COVID-19 virus, but also spiritual healing that we believe that the Lord can and will come to our rescue. As we wait for the Lord to grant our request let us keep our eyes fixed on the promises made to those who believe. The world has been through plagues and threats to peace and security before but the faithful whose belief in God does not waver, and who remain people of hope, emerge stronger in their faith when the storm passes. Never forget that God is with us and God, using human intelligence, industry and good will, will save us. We just have to be people of hope who believe.

GOOD NEWS: Beginning this coming Wednesday daily Mass from San Rafael will be able to be viewed on line on our parish website and our facebook page. The Mass will be recorded at 7:15 and posted online for 8:00 a.m., the time of our usual daily Mass. We will also record Stations of the Cross and post them this coming Friday. We will be able to tell you the exact times for each after tomorrow when Fr. Niru and I will do a trial run to be sure to iron out any wrinkles. The church will be opened after the Mass is recorded, at approximately 7:40 a.m. We would like to open it for Mass but you all know we can't do that for fear of violating the ban on social gathering and social separation rules. Don't be mad at the governor or the Church for requiring this. It is the **ONLY** way we will be able to stop the spread of the COVID-19. Let's remember, this is not a personal inconvenience; it is a universal inconvenience and **every single one of us must do our part** to help overcome it. We are also working and making plans to live-stream Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday. It won't be as grand as being here but as the saying goes: "Half an apple is better than none." "The Love of Christ Impels us..." (2 Cor. 5:14)

Monsignor Dennis Mikulanis
Very Rev. Msgr. Dennis L. Mikulanis, S.T.D.
Pastor