

Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Tuesday, Second Week of Easter, April 21, 2020



Readings: Acts 4:32-37; Psalm 93:1-2,5; Jn 3:7b-15

Dear Parishioners:

“A little knowledge is a dangerous thing,” which means if we think we know something and we really don’t we can really mess up badly. That was where Nicodemus was going. He was a Pharisee who thought he knew all there was to know about being a religiously knowledgeable and faithful man; that is, until he met Jesus who caused Nicodemus to look a little closer, think a little harder, believe a little stronger in what God really has to say. Nicodemus opened his mind and heart to Christ and became a believer in Him, though in secret because he was afraid of his colleagues in the Sanhedrin. It was Nicodemus who went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus to be taken down from the cross. We assume he became a loyal disciple and firm believer after the resurrection. The whole point is that he kept his mind and heart open to God’s call in his life. He came to realize that the Lord was calling him to stretch his soul to receive the Holy Spirit and preach the Good News. Nicodemus is an example for all of us, especially when we think we know it all when it comes to the beliefs, doctrines and practices of our Faith. We must be grounded in the past, alive and active in the present with a view to the future if we hope to be faithful disciples of the Risen Lord Jesus.

April 21st – Happy Birthday Rome! Today is the 2,773rd Birthday of Rome, founded 753 A.U.C. (Ab Urbe Condita – From the founding of the City – so add 753 to the current year A.D. – Anno Domini - year of the Lord – and you get the age of Rome). This is just a little bit of useless trivia for those who care. Actually, it’s a great day in Rome under normal circumstances. The Campidoglio (City Hall) in Rome is illuminated with outdoor candles and a huge fireworks display at night thrills the Roman Crowd.

“When we get back to normal ...” The question is, what will “normal” be again? Those who remember December 7, 1941, and more recently September 11, 2001, asked the same question. “What will life be like when we get back to normal?” Well, “normal” is certainly not going to be what it was before. Just look at what 9/11 did to the world from the War on Terror to domestic security and upheaval in the Middle East, and how we must conduct business in airports. It isn’t the “normal” we knew on 9/10/01. It all changed. After this pandemic begins to subside a new “normal” will appear and we will all have to be flexible and intelligent enough to embrace it. Perhaps we’ll be kinder to one another. Perhaps (and this is a long shot) our politicians will work together for the good of the nation and the world. Perhaps we will take our religious obligations to the Lord and the Church more seriously. Perhaps we will have a greater appreciation of God’s gifts to us and use them more responsibly. Who knows what the new “normal” will be?

A Little Humor: The police want you to know that running from them as you speed down the freeway is not social distancing.

And – A short time after isolation a woman’s friend asked her: “Where’s your husband?” The woman answered. “In the garden.” “I didn’t see him” the friend said. “You need to dig a little” replied the woman.

And, just to be fair: A man said “My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary.” She said, “I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds.” The man bought her a bathroom scale. That’s when the fight started.

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