

# Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Wednesday, Second Week of Easter, April 22, 2020

Readings: Acts 5:17-26; Psalm 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21



Dear Parishioners:

Gold, silver, copper, diamonds and other precious metals and gemstones have to be dug out of the earth if they are going to have any benefit to those who find them. However, once they are uncovered and processed they assume great wealth. Today's gospel account from John uncovers the gem God's truth that is imbedded in the pages of the Bible. John 3:16 is the core of Christian Faith and verse 17 tells us why it is something of such tremendous value. When things start to go wrong and you begin to wonder if it's all worth the effort just look at these two verses as the "Mother Lode" hit by a miner who has labored long and hard and possibly thought of giving up the whole venture but kept on working hoping to strike it rich. What does John 3:16-17 say? Look it up.

Thousands of people around the world were disappointed with the news of the cancellation of the Passion Play held every ten years in the Bavarian Town of Oberammergau. A pilgrimage of over 40 people was all set and ready to go from San Rafael and now that had to be cancelled as Oberammergau postponed the Passion Play until 2022 because of the coronavirus. We have had several pilgrimages from our parish to various sites in the Holy Land and Europe that are important to our faith. Pilgrimages aren't just "trips" or "vacations" (though some people have treated them as such – but none of our parishioners, thankfully). Pilgrimages are personal journeys of faith to help strengthen the faith of those who take them. Who hasn't come back from a pilgrimage changed for the better with a deeper appreciation for our faith? They are reminders to us that we are all on a pilgrimage through this life to the Kingdom of God. An article in the March 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of AMERICA Magazine beautifully explained this. We don't need to travel overseas for a pilgrimage. We can do them right here at home (once the "stay at home" restrictions lift). As an individual, a couple or a family make a pilgrimage to another parish in the diocese. Make a pilgrimage starting at the Mission San Diego, then move on to the Mission San Luis Rey and then go even further to The Mission San Juan Capistrano. Make a pilgrimage to Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside and attend the daily 11:00 a.m. Mass. Make a pilgrimage to Mission Santa Ysabel and then go up the hill to St. Elizabeth's Church in Julian. At each place make a visit, say a prayer, leave a small donation and then at the end head out somewhere for a nice meal. They are all reminders that we are on the journey together to the Promised Land.

**A Little Humor:** The drop in gas prices during the lockdown is like a bald man winning a hair brush.

"All those grandparents who are missing their grandchildren right now; Once this is over you can have them for a month. Sincerely, a tired mom."

After listening to Ethel, his human, for 14 days while in quarantine as she complained for hours on end, Sparky the dog realized he was not cut out to be an emotional support dog.

And, finally, a riddle: There are five eggs in the basket. Five people each take one of the eggs. How can it be that one egg remains in the basket? Answer: tomorrow ☹

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