

Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Saturday, April 25, 2020 ~ Feast of St. Mark

Readings: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Psalm 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20



Dear Parishioners:

In the days immediately following September 11, 2001 and I assume in the days following December 7, 1941 our country was brought to its knees. The United States had been deliberately, maliciously, surprisingly attacked which resulted in a great loss of life. The safety and protection we all had taken for granted suddenly evaporated like a fine mist during a Santa Ana wind. It was the same way during the first TET Offensive in Viet Nam in 1968 when people flocked to church in the face of yet another horrible onslaught. So why isn't it the same now with a pandemic that has infected millions and killed hundreds of thousands of people around the world with no regard for race, nationality or political affiliation? Why is it that there doesn't seem to be a great need for religious fervor now? Perhaps it is because the enemy is unseen. It's hard to fight a virus when it springs up so suddenly and no one – *no one* – was prepared for it. The shock of the devastation is almost surreal and some simply don't think it is the threat that it is. However, today's Readings give us a hint of a response. St. Peter tell us that the devil goes about like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour, and it finds it. (Sorry, I refuse to apply a gender to the evil one. It's an "it.") Who does the devil find? It finds the self-centered, complacent, foolish among us who think they are the only ones being inconvenienced. The pandemic is let loose, people are dying, and so many don't care and then do what they can to grab the headlines. The answer to all of this, as it is to any question, is Christ. No, Christ won't wave a magic wand and make COVID-19 disappear but for those who believe in and accept Christ and live a life as He teaches, perhaps we could find a solution for humanity to come up with a cure and a vaccine. Most despicable of all is that this whole thing is now becoming politicized which is keeping us from working together – remember "E PLURIBUS UNUM"? – as the human family to find a way out of this mess. Jesus tells us to go into the world and proclaim the Good News. How can we do that effectively if we're at each other's throats? Let's pray that all of the world's political leaders grow up, act like adults and work together. Who alone can bring this about? Jesus Christ. "Go into the world and proclaim the Good News (Mk 16:15)" which is a mandate given to all of us for the salvation of the world.

NEED SOME READING AT THIS TIME? Try one of these: *"The Story of a Soul"* by St. Therese of Lisieux; *"Everything is Grace: The life and Way of St. Therese of Lisieux"* by Joseph F. Schmidt; *"Brideshead Revisted"* by Evelyn Waugh; *"Brother to a Dragonfly"* by Will D. Campbell; *"Enter Assisi: An Invitation to Franciscan Spirituality"* by Murray Bodo; *"The Power and the Glory"* and *"Don Quixote"* by Graham Greene; *"Letters from the Desert"* by Carlo Caretto; *"With God in Russia"* by Fr. Walter Ciszek; and if you can find them - *"The stories of Don Camillo"* by Giovanni Guareschi.

A Little Humor:

The police caught a burglar kicking in a kitchen door. When they asked him if he knew the owner the guy said: "Yes. *It's my house?*" "Then why are you kicking in the door?" "I'm working from home" the guy replied.

A man asked his buddy: "What surprises you the most about the coronavirus?" The friend answered: "It has done what no woman has been able to do: cancel all sports, shutdown all bars, and keep men at home."

And get this: A guy sued an airline company after it lost his luggage. Sadly, he lost his case. (get it?)

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