

Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Monday, April 6, 2020



Dear Parishioners:

Tuesday of Holy Week Readings: Is 49:1-6 Ps 71:1-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15, 17 Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Check out those goofy Apostles in today's gospel passage. It's the Last Supper, Jesus knows what awaits Him, and what do the disciples do? *They argue with each other!* They don't understand what Jesus is trying to tell them, Peter nudges John ("the one whom Jesus loved" – hmm; a bit of jealousy creeping in to the writing of the evangelist here?) to ask Jesus what He was talking about, Judas (who knew full well what Jesus was talking about) played the "Who me?" Mr. Innocent before going out to do his evil deed, and big, brave, talk-first-think later Peter promised his undying loyalty to Jesus – only to betray his Lord most shamefully only a few hours later. These were the ones Jesus selected to be His Apostles, i.e., emissaries to the world! Poor Jesus. Now, let's look at today and see we haven't come all that far. In the Church neo-conservatives push their agenda which at times runs contrary to what the Church teaches, liberals push for things which simply aren't possible without turning us into a do-whatever-you-want- no discipline-and theology-don't matter community of self-centered individualists. Perhaps this time of quarantine enforced by the spread of a new and deadly virus is a time for us to look at and evaluate our relationship with the Lord and His Church. Do we take things only as we want when convenient or are we faithful to what God asks of us? Are we open to accepting one another as sisters and brothers in Christ regardless of race or nationality? Do we *really* keep holy the Lord's Day primarily by offering a brief hour of our time by going to Mass either Saturday evening or Sunday – or are other activities such as travel, camping, sports, going to the river considered more important? And what is Easter? The weather forecasters indicate Easter Sunday by a bouncing bunny rabbit! What an insult to Christianity. The Prime Minister of New Zealand recently remarked, to great applause, that the Easter Bunny and tooth fairy are "essential" workers and not subject to self isolation. Hence, Easter is relegated to a fairy tale. So again: Are we any better than those dunderheads Jesus chose for Apostles? Not really; but as the Apostles overcame their foolishness, so can we. Take these last few days before Easter to re-evaluate your relationship with the Lord and how you will make Him known to the world. Yes, we all fall short of the mark at times but with the grace of God we overcome our failures and become the heralds of His Good News!

Please be sure to follow the guidelines set by public authorities for the health and welfare of everyone. Only leave home if you have to – exercise, groceries, pharmacy, gas for the car. When you do leave home please wear a mask (For those with a nose as big as mine they can be a bit uncomfortable ☐). Wash your hands a lot (and instead of counting 20 seconds while washing say the "Hail Mary" two times which is about the same amount of time and use those as prayers for an end to the coronavirus). Maintain social distancing, especially in places like the grocery store (where I had to scold one elderly gentleman who insisted on standing right behind me in the checkout line). Be Safe!

A Little Humor:

1. Homeschooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job.
2. I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks we'd from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone.
3. This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog ... we laughed a lot!
4. So, after this quarantine will the producers of My 600 Pound Life just find me or do I find them?
5. Went to this restaurant called THE KITCHEN. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.

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