

Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Tuesday May 12, 2020 Fifth Week of Easter



Readings: Acts 14:19-28; Psalm 115:1-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26

Dear Parishioners:

This is late today. The computers went down in the neighborhood and it took Spectrum some time to get the system back up and running, then the priests had a ZOOM Deanery meeting with Bishop McElroy and Bishop Dolan. More about that later.

However, why is it that Christians have always rubbed people the wrong way? From the time St. Stephen first preached the gospel in Jerusalem and was executed for it until today, faithful Christians have faced one opponent after another. The chief opponent, however, and instigator of the attacks against Christianity, is Satan itself. Satan hates the name of Christ and will do all it can to bring Christ's followers down. However, faithful Christians are frontline soldiers during the time of spiritual warfare and we can expect to be persecuted. It doesn't matter whether it's the communist regimes of Eastern Europe or Asia, the secularist anti-Catholic movements of modern day Europe or the contemporary dismissal of the Church by so many "intellectuals" in our own country; we will be opposed. However, like Paul in today's account from the Acts of the Apostles we can never give up on our commission to preach the good news of salvation to the world. Even when we're knocked down we have to get up again and go right back to doing what Christ has asked us to do. The eventual victory of Christ over the evil one and its followers is a certainty.

Now, for the Deanery Meeting which was about forming protocols in order to open the churches for public Masses again. We hope that this can take place within the next few weeks. Things will be dramatically different, though, and over the next week regulations and protocols will be developed for the near future which would allow a public assembly such as Mass. Certainly, face masks *will be required by everyone*. Social distancing has to be worked out, maybe Sunday Mass might have simultaneous Mass at a few of the times in the church and the hall. NO COFFEE AND DONUTS until further notice will be allowed. The hymnals will all be removed and we'll have to figure out how much and when to sing. After every Sunday Mass *we will need a consistent number of parishioners to remain after Mass for ten minutes or so to help wipe down the pews with sanitizer which will be provided by the parish*. Start thinking about it now. If you plan to return to Mass on Sunday (and the elderly, ill, or those still afraid to venture into the public do not have to attend Sunday Mass) consider staying behind for a few minutes every week to help sanitize the church. Fr. Niru and I are talking about adding a second weekday Mass at 6:00 p.m. to provide extra Mass time for our parishioners who might be hesitant to come to Sunday Mass with the greater numbers. CONFESSION: As of now we are removing the kneeler in the confessional and the penitent will sit on a chair, facing the screen to confess. We are maintaining NO FACE TO FACE CONFESSIONS and those coming to confession will be asked to wear a face mask. The cry room cannot be used for seating at Mass due to the confines so it will be used as a second confessional. Diocesan regulations are being formulated and our parish staff will be meeting next week to discuss how to implement a plan here at San Rafael to allow Mass and assure the health and safety of our parishioners. Once protocols are established and an "opening time" is announced parishioners will be informed via Facebook, our website and hopefully a parish wide mailing. In the meantime, keep smiling! We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song! And don't forget to pray that we can get back on our feet again, just like St. Paul did at Lystra.

A Little Humor: Question: How do you make God laugh? Answer: Tell Him your plans!

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