

# Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 ~Fifth Week of Easter



Readings: Acts 15:1-6; Psalm 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8

Dear Parishioners:

I doubt if Jesus knew much about baseball, soccer, hockey or any other sport. I'm not even sure there were sports in His day except chariot races and gladiator contests. Unlike most sports today those were all individual contests. Modern sports, for the most part, depend on teamwork. Unless a team pulls together and works together they're bound to be a bunch of losers. Not having sports teams to use as an analogy Jesus used what people knew. He talked about how a grape vine and its many branches had to work together to produce good fruit. If sappers or other branches were discovered that did nothing to enhance the productivity of the vine they were cut off and thrown onto the fire to be burned up and turned into ash. The lesson was clear. If someone claims an attachment to Christ but does not produce good fruit for Him, that person will be cut off as useless. A committed Christian, a faithful member of the Church, works in concert with everyone else in order to evangelize the world. Their words might be the catalyst to get others to listen but their lives will be the witness that produces the fruit. What are you in relationship to Christ? Are you productive for Christ by the virtue of your life or not? Do you wander off as a wild branch sapping the strength of the vine or do you work *with* the Church to produce good fruit? Inanimate vines and branches just grow as they will. They don't have the opportunity to make a choice as to what they'll be. We do.

**Tomorrow, May 14<sup>th</sup>, is an international/inter-religious day of prayer, fasting and charity to implore God for an end to the current pandemic. Will you be a "sapper" or a productive branch for God?**

**When will we be able to return to Mass?** We simply don't know. The Catholic Bishops of California are working with their priests to put together protocols for reopening our churches that can be presented to the governor. No, this is *not* an issue of constitutional rights. Mass hasn't been forbidden; it's only that large gatherings are forbidden to help stop the pandemic. Not gathering in large groups is socially, morally responsible. However, we hope that what the Church proposes to the governor will be adequate to allow us to gather for Mass again. A few things are for certain when we do: Numbers in church will be limited by social distancing; you might have to pick another time to go to Mass; communion will be given only in the hand and not at all from the cup; masks will be required for all attending Mass (and by this time everyone should have a mask. If you don't, why not?); The cry/parents/children's room in the church will be off limits; volunteers will be needed to spray down and sanitize the pews after every Mass. Once details are established our parishioners will be informed by every means at our disposal.

**A Little Humor:** (Some more actual courtroom recordings)

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

LIFE FROM THE SEAT OF A FARMER'S TRACTOR: "The best sermons are lived, not preached." "Don't judge folks by their relatives."

FINALLY, something to consider: If you thought the run on toilet paper was crazy, just wait until 300 million people all want a haircut appointment.

Very Rev. Msgr. Dennis L. Mikulanis, S.T.D.

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